FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

According to AFP, Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti told a press conference in Tehran that it is too soon for Iran to comment on the latest U.S. response to the Majlis conditions for the release of the hostages. The head of the Supreme Court and leader of the Islamic Republican Party said that he personally has yet to review the U.S. response but intends to do soon. The Beirut paper AS-SAFIR, according to AFP, reported on 11 December that authoritative Iranian authorities have revealed that the hostages will be released on Christmas Day. An Iranian Government spokesman subsequently told AFP that no agreement has yet been reached on their release and that Iran is still studying the details of the latest U.S. reply.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Majlis Letter--Tehran radio reported that the Majlis approved a letter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni praising his "decisive action regarding the punishment of possible torturers" and calling on the commission investigating the torture charges to identify the guilty parties so they can be punished, publish their names, find out under whose orders the guilty parties acted, disclose illegal interferences in judicial affairs and, if the charges of torture appear to be "trivial," punish those offenders "who exaggerate such weaknesses in order to weaken the government."

Iran Foreign Affairs

Mokri to Moscow--Iran's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mohammad Mokri, has resumed his duties in Moscow, AFP noted, after being recalled home for 2 months "for consultations" following remarks he made on the war with Iraq.

OPEC Meeting--At a press conference in Kuala Lumpur reported by AFP, Indonesian Energy Minister Dr Subroto said Indonesia has received confirmation from Iran that it will attend the OPEC meeting in Bali but has not been told who will lead the delegation. Iranian Oil Minister Javad Tondguyan was captured by Iraq about a month ago.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio finally acknowledged Iraqi claims of a major Iranian counterattack around Abadan by asserting that Iranian forces inflicted "the severest blows" on Iraqi troops in a "widespread surprise attack" that began last week and finally ended on 10 December. While claiming to have destroyed an unspecified number of Iraqi tanks and to have killed 70, the radio admitted 10 Iranians were killed and 130 wounded, one of the largest admissions of Iranian casualties to date. According to Baghdad radio, the Iraqi General Command reported that Iraqi forces rebuffed another attempt by Iranian forces to break out of the Abadan encirclement the night of 9-10 December and killed 195, bringing the claimed weeklong total of Iranians killed in the counterattacks to over 600. In other fighting, Tehran radio noted Iranian air attacks on Kirkuk and Mehran in Iraq and continued ground operations around Shur-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr).

In a related report, the Kuwaiti health minister denied a PARS report that wounded Iraqi soldiers are being treated in Kuwaiti hospitals. The health minister told KUNA such reports are "groundless" but indicated Kuwait's hospitals serve "everyone, rendering help to those who request treatment."

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

Citing "an official Jordanian source," Amman radio reported that Jordanian forces have begun to withdraw from defensive positions along the northern border following Syria's "real and unconditional withdrawal" of its forces. AL-AKHBAR and AR-RA'Y, in articles reviewed by the radio, noted the Syrian-Jordanian troop withdrawals and indicated these moves would produce a constructive dialogue between the two countries.

Soviet Gulf Proposals

In the wake of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposals for a worldwide accord guaranteeing the military neutralization of the Gulf, the Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, in a statement to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AL-QABAS, reported by KUNA, said Kuwait welcomes any step what will keep the Gulf region away from pacts and bases and has always demanded that the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea remain remote from foreign fleets and international conflicts. Brezhnev's proposals, reported by TASS, included demands that all the major powers agree not to establish military bases or deploy nuclear weapons in the Gulf or interfere in the internal affairs of Gulf countries. The Soviet leader also called for agreement to respect the nonalignment and sovereign right to natural resources of Gulf states and to maintain normal trade relations between them and the outside world.

Egypt

Following his return from Washington Vice President Husni Mubarak, in a statement reported by Cairo radio, described his talks in the U.S. capital as "quite excellent" and said the most important point to emerge was that the Camp David process will be continued after the new U.S. administration takes over. Calling for a "referendum for the Palestinian people" to determine their own fate, Mubrak said the Palestinian problem "cannot be solved through the annexation of the West Bank by Jordan." He said autonomy must be the first objective, "then Jordan can join the negotiations."

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MINISTERS TO MEET TO PREPARE FOR ISLAMIC SUMMIT

LD101259 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 8 Dec 80 p 1

['Abdallah ash-Shahri report: "Islamic States' Foreign Ministers Conference in At-Ta'if To Prepare for the Islamic Conference"]

[Text] Islamabad--An informed source in Islamabad has told AL-JAZIRAH that it has been decided to convene a conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers in At-Ta'if to prepare for the Islamic summit conference in Mecca on 12 Rabi' al-Awwal [19 January 1981].

The source said that the foreign ministers will work out a unified Islamic strategy concerning Islamic issues, particularly the issue of liberating the holy city of Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the war in the Gulf as well as the conditions of Islamic minorities in the world, the dangers facing Muslims and the plots hatched against them and the establishment of political and economic integration and cooperation among the Islamic states.

The source said that over 40 states will participate in the Islamic summit conference. The conference opening ceremony will be attended by the foreign ministers, UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and the Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti.

PLO OFFICIAL CALLS FOR RECOGNITION BY REAGAN

NC110855 Doha QNA in Arabic 0826 GMT 11 Dec 80

[Text] Dubayy, 11 Dec (QNA)--In an interview published in today's edition of the newspaper AL-BAYAN of Dubayy, head of the PLO [Political Department] Faruq Qaddumi called on the administration of U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan to recognize the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights on the grounds that this recognition is the basis of the quest of peace in the Middle East.

Mr Qaddumi said: We are ready to meet with President Reagan's administration at the level of secretary of state or at the presidential level with the proviso that official recognition be extended to the PLO.

The Palestinian official added: We are aware of the hostile attitude adopted by the U.S. administration and the Reagan team. This is why we will not try to contact them unless they change their stance on the Palestinian issue. "However, if anyone gets in touch with us for the purpose of holding talks, then we can talk to them at the same level."

Mr Qaddumi emphasized that there will be no solution for the Middle East issue without the PLO and without the recovery of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Concerning the PLO's nonattendance at the Amman summit conference, he said that the PLO did not attend this summit to spare the conferees an explosion among the Arab states, as he put it. Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO is not against any Arab state. However, the PLO supports the Palestinian people's national objectives.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS WITH JORDANIAN MINISTER

JN110815 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Dec 80 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman-AR-RA'y--Hasan Ibrahim, minister of the occupied land affairs, met here yesterday with 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and director general of the PLO Political Department. During the meeting the two sides exchanged views on ways to boost the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories and relations between Jordan and the PLO.

AR-RA'Y has learned that Al-Yahya told the minister that the recent situation in the area, particularly the Jordanian-Syrian crisis, would not affect the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

The meeting also dealt with the issue of fixing a date for the committee's next meeting. It was learned that Al-Yahya has left Amman with a message for the PLO leadership on the matter.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO MEET 20 DEC

JN110853 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Amman--AR-RA'Y has learned that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for the support of the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories will meet in Amman on 20 December.

'ARAFAT ATTENDS PALESTINIAN TACTICAL EXERCISE

NC051245 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 5 Dec 80

[Text] A tactical exercise for protection against chemical bombs which might be used by the enemy against our forces was carried out under the patronage of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]--commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and in the presence of a number of military commanders--brother Col (Abu al-Mu'tasim), director of reservists; Col (Abu Musa), assistance director of the central operation branch; Col (Abu az-za'im), director of military security; Col (Abu Khalid Yasin), commander of Al-Yarmuk forces; Col (Abu Hajim), commander of the Al-Karamah forces; and the commanders of the resistance groups in the area.

The exercise was carried out according to plans by the military command. The fighters carried out the tasks assigned to them with high competence and ability.

After the exercise Brother Abu 'Ammar delivered a speech in which he reviewed the history of the Palestinian revolution, its martyrs and fighters. He said: We now possess the biggest potentials and we are moving ahead with confidence.

The commander in chief praised the steadfastness of our forces in the south and the heroism of our fighters in Ad-Damur and As-Sa'diyyat, saying: We shall remain steadfast in every position and area until we liberate our land.

He then addressed the fighters, saying: Our revolution through you is great and our revolution through you will triumph. He hailed the large-scale popular uprising against the occupation in the occupied territory, adding that our people who stand fast and fight are bound to triumph.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then referred to the Arab situation, problems and conflicts and said: The greatness of this revolution lies in the fact that it has elevated itself over [inter-Arab] conflicts, and is offering, through this cascade of blood of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces, a bright picture of our Arab nation.

Referring to the plots and designs facing the Arab area, the commander in chief said: Two years ago Brzezinski said goodbye to the PLO. Afterwards, they send a third of the Israeli Army to liquidate the Palestinian resistance. However, the joint forces were able to teach them a lesson which they will never forget. The PLO remained despite everything. Now, we tell Brzezinski goodbye.

Addressing the fighters he said: We in the joint forces are equipping ourselves with protective devices against such types of war and against the extreme possibilities which Reagan and Begin think about, and I say: We threaten but cannot be threatened. We threaten through the blood of Kamal Junblatt and the legs of Ash-Shak'ah and Khalaf.

He added: Reagan attacked us before the elections as part of the American bazaar and he is still attacking us now. However, his attacks do not worry us.

The fighters and the commanders then bid the commander in chief farewell. The commander in chief then proceeded to the Al-Karamah forces command where he met with the commanders and had lunch with them.

KHALAF OPENS PALESTINIAN TEACHERS CONFERENCE 5 DEC

NC061454 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1140 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Speech by Salah Khalaf--identified by announcer by alias "Abu Iyad"--member of the Fatah Central Committee, on 5 December at the opening of the third conference of the Lebanese branch of the Palestinian teachers federation--recorded]

[Excerpts] At this conference I do not want to talk about the plots facing us. However, there are two points that must be dealt with. The first point is about the voices that have recently been heard saying that they support the PLO as the sole legitimate representative and that they are against the imposition of custodianship on it. You are all aware of our battle against custodianship and for an independent Palestinian decision. You are all aware that the Palestinian revolution groups have fought more than one Arab regime to safeguard their independent national decision. We have never been followers of this or that regime.

Voices have recently come out demanding that the PLO be independent and that its decision be independent. We want to ask frankly: Why don't they give us two bases in Jordan so that their custodianship and the talk about custodianship would prove correct? We have been engaged in a dialogue with them for more than 2 years and we have not yet been able to establish an information office, let alone a military base. Nevertheless, they talk about custodianship. What custodianship is this?

I say to all those who now voice their concern for the PLO and its independent decision that we are more concerned about this independent decision. We say no those who say that the PLO was prevented from attending the Amman summit conference. We were not prevented from attending the conference; we were the ones who decided not to attend it. We cannot be dragged to the conference. There can be no benefit from this conference if an attempt is made to drag us to it by coercion and threats to cut financial aid. These voices must keep silent. They must know that their history with our people is black and long.

We kept silent for some time to secure an information base, but we have been unable to secure one. We held a dialogue with them with a view to securing a political office for our people, but we were rebuffed. They even refused to discuss future conditions if an independent Palestinian state is established between us and Jordan.

Therefore, we advise them to keep silent, because their history, as I said, is full of black pages in their dealings with our people, strugglers and revolutionaries. We kept silent and told our people to be patient while we were maintaining this dialogue for the good of Arab solidarity and the unity of the Arab rank.

Have plot against us here in Lebanon decreased? We realize that there were people who tried to create a problem between us and our Shi'ite brothers at one time, but we overcame this by embracing the Amal movement so that we, Amal and the national movement could be in the same trench. We benefited from the September experience in Jordan and from the experience of Jarash and'Ajlun. We benefit from past experiences. We now know that as a revolution must ally ourselves with the sons of the country in which we reside.

We also realize that our relationship with the Arab people must expand. Although the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is facing obstacles, our duty as a Palestinian revolution must be to overcome these obstacles and revive this front. We do not deny that at one time this front was able to stand for the Arab nation and prevent the traitor As-Sadat from saying that he represents the Arab nation.

We also are keen on maintaining good, close relations with our friends in the world. We can never place the Soviet Union and the United States on the same level. We know that the Soviet Union and the socialist camp are our true friends in this world.

We tell the entire world that we are a national liberation movement and will continue our revolution until we can achieve a national state for our people on their land. I assure you brothers and sisters that this national state will not be established on only a part of Palestinian land; if this state is established, it will be established on all of Palestine. Our enemies know this and they are hatching plots for us.

Wait for the coming president, Reagan; he is assuming power in February [as heard] and will apoint Jordan as a custodian of our cause. Reagan will install the [Israeli] Labor Party and appoint it as the mentor of a solution. At any rate, we do not care whether the Labor Party, Begin or Herut assumes power. The only thing we are concerned with is that our aims are clear and cohesive. We must not be deceived by the so-called European initiatives, which are empty because we know that Europe means the United States. There is no European initative that is separated from the U.S. line, views or instruction. We know this well. If we make political moves, this does not mean that we accept the European initiative or solution--rather, that we are making and must make moves in the world. Political moves do not mean a political solution. We do not believe that a solution will come from any party. We believe that political moves are one of the fruits and efforts of our revolution.

From this stand we reject any initative coming from the United States or Europe, initiatives that only appear different from Camp David but are in essence part of it. I do not know if you heard Butrus Ghali's statement broadcast by Monte Carlo radio and covered by other agencies. Butrus Ghali said that he supported the European initiative provided that its substance was based on the Camp David and autonomy agreements. This is Egypt's view of the European initiative--Egypt, the state that has deflected from the Arab nation's unanimity. If this is Egypt's view, what is the stand of Belgium, or Italy, or the other European countries toward a European initiative?

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER ON BALI CONFERENCE, PRICE RISE

LD111048 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Dec 80

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has stated that OPEC oil prices will remain stable if Iraq and Iran manage to increase their oil exports and if the Western oil-consuming countries use their vast reserves of oil. If these two aims are not achieved, he added, oil prices might go up.

In an interview with UP, the minister said that the OPEC Bali ministerial council might not even discuss the prices issue; instead it will concentrate on discussing the restoration of solidarity to [word indistinct]. He added that it is possible to envisage the Bali conference not adopting a resolution on prices, and that he does not believe that a resolution on prices is important at the present stage, since it is the world oil market which will determine this issue in one way or another. Kuwait, he added, wants to see the Bali conference succeed in rallying the 13 member states.

The minister added that discussing disputable issues such as that of prices is not inevitable, but it is necessary to administer the affairs of the region in a peaceful atmosphere so as to enable it to carry out its functions. The world oil market in the course of the next 2 months will be influenced by two main factors--the capability of Iran and Iraq to resume their oil exports, and the preparedness of the Western oil-consuming countries to use their oil reserves and restrict their imports. In such circumstances he expects prices to remain stable or a moderate increase will take place. He warned that should these two aims not be achieved, the world will experience an oil shortage and consequently the contribution of higher prices in the free markets.

MINISTER DENIES IRAQI WOUNDED IN KUWAITI HOSPITALS

LD101240 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1217 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Dec (KUNA)--Minister of Health Dr Ajabd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi denies the presence in Kuwaiti hospitals of any wounded Iraqis.

The minister was answering a question by a KUNA correspondent concerning a report published in an Iranian paper and distributed by PARS to the effect that Kuwaiti hospitals are full of wounded Iraqis.

The minister said: This report is groundless. There are no wounded Iraqis in our hospitals. But he continued: Nevertheless, Kuwait confirms that its hospitals are carrying out their humanitarian duties toward everyone, rendering help to those who request treatment within their capabilities and supreme mission.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES THREATS TO KINGDOM

LD101954 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Amir Sultan 'Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, this afternoon inspected the new Riyadh international airport project.

Afterward his royal highness answered a question put to him by reporters on joint defense among Arab countries and confirmed the need for the existence of a joint defense strategy among Arab states as a whole and not only among Gulf states.

He said that the Gulf states were part of the Arab world and confirmed that in the event of any aggression against any Arab country the whole Arab nation would rise to defend it.

Answering a question of Saudi aid to Iraq his royal highness said that Iraq had not requested aid from the kingdom. His royal highness added that listening to all that is being said was a waste of time. His royal highness confirmed that the kingdom was strong thanks to God and that it was able to repulse any aggression due to its faith and thanks to the arms of its loyal sons. His royal highness denied that the kingdom was subjected to any threats.

UAE

MINISTERS MEET WITH VISITING JAPANESE DELEGATION

GF101854 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Official talks began this morning at the Economy and Trade Ministry between UAE Economy and Trade Minister Sultan ibn Ahmad al-Mul'alla and Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Rokusuke Tanaka.

The economy and trade minister announced that bilateral economic and trade relations and the means of strengthening and developing them were discussed. The talks also dealt with ways of advancing technology in the UAE and Japan's contribution to several projects in the UAE.

The minister said the UAE welcomes improving cooperation with Japan in a way that will serve both countries.

Minister of Planning Sa'id al-Ghabbash met today with the Japanese minister. He said that during their meeting the Japanese delegation reviewed the development of bilateral economic and trade relations and stressed Japan's dependence on oil from the UAE--the UAE being a main supplier of gas and oil to Japan. The Japanese minister expressed his country's readiness to participate in development in the UAE and to offer its knowledge and technology.

Furthermore, Minister Sa'id al-Ghabbash said that the UAE is trying to improve and strengthen relations with Japan and to make use of its advanced scientific and technological methods. He reviewed the outline of the 5-year development plan in the UAE, which the Ministry of Planning is currently working on for the years 1981-1985. He welcomed any technical contribution from Japan in carrying out several projects under the 5-year plan.

MUBARAK RETURNS FROM U.S., MAKES STATEMENT

10 Dec Return

NC101217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Washington this afternoon after an 11-day visit to the United States. During his visit Mubarak held several contacts with the present U.S. administration and with a number of the new U.S. administration's officials.

Mubarak was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, U.S. ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton and a number of ministers.

Arrival Statement

NC101340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Excerpts] At 1300 today Vice President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Washington. Upon his arrival, Husni Mubarak spoke to our correspondent. He said:

[Begin recording] We discussed the general strategic situation and the situation in our area in general. Our talks were quite excellent. There is very great understanding of our views. The most important point is that we will continue with Camp David after the new administration takes over. There will be no addition to Camp David except with the approval of Egypt and Israel. [end recording]

Asked about the Jordanian situation, he said that there must be a referendum for the Palestinian people so that they may determine their own fate. We are not concerned about the alternative. All we care about is a comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. The problem cannot be solved through the annexation of the West Bank by Jordan. Autonomy must be achieved first, then Jordan can join the negotiations.

Asked about the projected summit conference, he said that consultations were still in progress. The summit, he said, might be bilateral or tripartite.

On the question of U.S. arms for Egypt, he said that the U.S. Government was studying this matter. We expect good results, he said, but the delivery of arms is being stepped up.

ANTI-AL-QADHDHAFI GROUP FORMED IN EGYPT 10 DEC

NC101633 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)--Today witnessed the inauguration of the Libyan National Association which will encompass the Libyan community in Egypt, which amounts to around 25,000 Libyans. A number of Libyan personalities residing in Cairo participated in the ceremony.

The chairman of the association, Mr (Mustafa al-Barki), has stated that the association's board of directors, comprising six members, has been formed. He added that the aim of the association is social and humanitarian and that it will strive to extend services to Libyans residing in Egypt who have escaped from Al-Qadhdhafi's terror. Mr (al-Barki) further said: We hope a political department will be formed within the association whose aim will be to carry out various forms of opposition to Al-Qadhdhafi.

Mr (al-Barki) went on to say that the association's aim is similar to that of all the organizations opposing Al-Qadhdhafi. He added that we are in touch with these organizations and that we hope to unify our efforts.

Mr (al-Barki) said that the association will issue a newspaper called "LIBYA AL-WATAN" [LIBYA THE HOMELAND], whose aim will be to defend the Libyan people who are residing inside and outside Libya, and who are now suffering from Al-Qadhdhafi's terror.

Mr (al-Barki) said: We are fortunate in that we are now in Egypt--a country which is more secure than any other country and a country which is the major asset of the Arab countries. He added that we are prepared to face any criminal act conducted by Al-Qadhdhafi's organs against us because Al-Qadhdhafi has gone bankrupt and no Libyan citizen is willing to defend him.

The chairman of the Libyan National Association talked about the terrorist methods practiced by Al-Qadhdhafi against the Libyan people, saying: Al-Qadhdhafi's organs are pursuing the Libyan people with or without reason. One of their methods is to prevent members of the popular conferences from stating their names. Each member is known by a number. Should such a member desire to speak he must quote his number and not his name because Al-Qadhdhafi wants no other name quoted except his own.

(Al-Barki) Added that 20,000 Libyans are now interned in Libya's prisons and that 5 or 6 of them are dying daily. He went on to say that each street and each Libyan house has witnessed a funeral because of the Libyan casualties in Chad. (Al-Barki) said the Libyan people have been involved in the Chad massacres so that Al-Qadhdhafi can carry out his leadership and expanionist goals through the implementation of Soviet designs.

It is worth noting that Mr (al-Barki) is one of the Libyan businessmen who are being pursued by Al-Qadhdhafi's organs. He succeeded in escaping to Italy 3 years ago and came to reside in Egypt about 6 months ago.

MILITARY COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 175

JN101757 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Communique No 175 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 10 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With capability and high spirits, our armed forces continue to defeat the enemy's desperate attempts to attack our frontline positions. Following are the results of our armed forces' activities in the various operations sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. At 0030 on 10 December 1980, the enemy remnants desperately tried to attack the advanced positions of our forces encircling Abadan. The attempt was made with the support of enemy helicopters from the city's eastern and northern areas. Our forces valiantly confronted them and engaged them in a battle which lasted until 0500 today in the eastern area and until 1200 in the northern area. The enemy forces then retreated, leaving behind the following losses:

a. In personnel: 195 killed.
b. An enemy helicopter was shot down over the battlefield.

2. Enemy losses in various battles in the operations sectors:

a. In personnel: Six killed in the Dezful sector; three killed in the Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] region.
b. In equipment: Four tanks, two armored personnel carriers, one vehicle and one gun were destroyed. One helicopter was destroyed and set ablaze in Khosrowabad. In addition, an oil storage tank was destroyed and burned in Abadan.

3. Our air force helicopters today raided enemy military targets on the Abadan-(Shaykh Budayr) axis, inflicting the following losses:

a. In personnel: 50 killed.
b. A black Mercedes which was guarded by four personnel carriers was destroyed. In addition, two vehicles laden with troops on the Abadan-(Shaykh Budayr) road were destroyed. The black Mercedes may have been carrying enemy officials. The Mercedes, the personnel carriers and the two troop vehicles which were guarding them, were completely destroyed.
c. The following were destroyed on the Abadan-(Shaykh Budayr) axis: four tanks and two armored personnel carriers.

Thus, the number of enemy losses for yesterday evening and today totals 254 killed. Eight tanks; eight armored personnel carriers; three vehicles, two of which were carrying troops; one gun; and two helicopters were destroyed. An oil storage tank was destroyed and set ablaze in Abadan.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: Seven martyrs in all sectors.

2. In equipment: Four vehicles, one mortar, one gun and one rocket launcher were damaged.

II. The air force: At 0945 enemy planes raided the modern villages in Panjwin, As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Our antiaircraft fire intercepted them and forced them to flee.

Our losses: Three martyrs and six wounded from among the civilians.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 December 1980

INA CITES DAMASCUS NEWSPAPER ON AID TO IRAN

JN101742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Damascus, 10 Dec (INA)--The newspaper AT-TAHRIR has disclosed that there is full coordination between the regimes of Khomeyni and Hafiz al-Asad in training mercenaries and dispatching them to Iran. The newspaper, organ of the Ba'th Party in Syria, reports in an editorial today that Iranian officers have arrived in Syria via Turkey to train these mercenaries and to supervise the shipment of arms and equipment to Iran. The paper adds that two passenger planes are making daily flights to an Iranian airport to transport large quantities of arms and materiel, including SAM-6 and SAM-7 missiles.

The paper points out that on 29 October, three complete crews for the two aforementioned types of sophisticated missiles were sent to assist Khomeyni's clique in confronting the Iraqi planes which are defending Arab sovereignty. The paper adds that Hisham al-Faqih, A Syrian businessman, has concluded a contract with some U.S. quarters to purchase 50,000 bullet-proof vests. At the instructions of the Syrian regime, this businessman has asked that most of these vests be sent to Iran while the rest be given to the so-called armed youth regiments formed by the ruling regime in Damascus.

The paper also gave various details on the armed clashes which took place in the 2d of this month between the regime's security organs and the citizens of Al-Mayadin city. Following these clashes, the city was encircles by a large number of forces and foreign elements. People were then forbidden to enter or leave the city and several of its citizens were arrested.

On Hafiz al-Asad's relationship with Al-Qadhdhafi, the paper said that the latter refused to pay the sums of money he promised to pay during his meeting with Al-Asad in Tripoli. It added that Al-Qadhdhafi agreed with Al-Asad to pay $2.6 billon, $1 billion of which will go to the formation of a steadfastness army corps and another $1 billion to pay off Syria's debts to the Soviet Union. The remaining $600 million is aid to Hafiz al-Asad from Al-Qadhdhafi.

The paper pointed out that, as usual, Al-Qadhdhafi has thus far not paid these sums, using the pretext that he will pay the first $1 billion after and not before the formation of the army corps. Regarding the second $1 billion, Al-Qadhdhafi said that he is ready to buy new weapons for Syria and not to pay bills for previously purchased weapons. As for the $600 million, he said that he is ready to pay it for the establishment of projects under his name in Syria. However, Hafiz al-Asad rejected this condition.

Regarding Hariz al-Asad's role on the Arab level, the paper said that Hafiz al-Asad did not attend the Amman summit conference because he was certain that the conference's resolutions would be advanced ones in all fields, as he was told by his foreign minister. It added that the Amman summit was held and the resolutions were issued. If those who boycotted the conference rose to the level of the likelihood that Al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi to the level of implementing them and adhering to them. [sentence as received]

The paper wondered that Hafiz al-Asad has offered other than verbal showmanship and other than the dissipation and distribution of the summit funds, which he received to raise Syria's combat capabilities, on followers and gangs.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOMALI PRESIDENT

JN101123 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received a message today from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. It was conveyed by Somali Ambassador in Baghdad Abdullah Haj Abubakar during his meeting today with acting Foreign Minister Hamid 'Alwan.

ARMED FORCES BEGIN WITHDRAWAL FROM BORDER

JN102108 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] An official Jordanian source told AFP this evening that the Jordanian forces stationed at Jordan's northern border began to withdraw today.

The source announced that the Jordanian defensive units facing the Syrian forces will have their men gradually reduced. The same source added that this measure was taken following the Syrian forces real and unconditional withdrawal on the other side of the border following the mediation mission undertaken by Saudi Arabia.

AD-DUSTUR BELITTLES 'TOKEN' SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL

JN100900 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "We Do Not Accept Half-Solutions," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: When signals appeared indicating that the withdrawal of the military concentrations on our northern border had begun, we saw promising signs in this and hoped that the rulers of Damascus would return to their senses and halt the campaigns of slander and deception against this country. It seems, however, that these rulers have not yet reached the level of reason, wisdom and farsightedness that is desired.

The entire world has heard His Majesty King Husayn's remarks analyzing the current situation with a spirit of logic, responsibility and reason that transcends rashness and vituperation. Husayn explained the facts and defended Jordan's courageous and responsible position in confronting the continued campaign of doubt-casting and showmanship against this country and its people and army.

Prior to this, and at a time when Damascus pledged to withdraw its forces, the entire world heard Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM. With an air of superiority and threatening tones, he said that the Syrian Army is capable of overrunning Jordan and reaching any place it wants in a matter of minutes.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Jordan does not accept half-truths or false promises. It is not convinced by smokescreen statements while the frenzied campaigns against it are renewed and while seeing that the concentrations remain where they are, under the guise of a gradual withdrawal, a matter which only demonstrates bad intentions and weakness of argument. When they showed an inclination toward peace and pan-Arab interests, we were the first to do the same. If they again resort to threats, they will discover that this country, as they know, is capable of confronting threats and thwarting artifice. They will find the sons of this country to be one cohesive unit against aggression.

We had hoped that the rulers in Damascus would respond sincerely to the benevolent initiative undertaken by fraternal Saudi Arabia and would purify their intentions. However, the continuation and escalation of the tendentious information campaigns and the retention of the military concentrations under the guise of token withdrawals do not show good intentions and response to the logic of reason and pan-Arab conscience.

They are censuring Jordan for standing fast, rallying around fraternal Iraq in its pan-Arab battle and receiving a number of tanks that Iraq captured from Iran, to enhance this Arab country's ability to safeguard Arab land from the Zionist aggressive tide and to bolster the Arab confrontation of Israel. We tell those who are falsely attacking Jordan and Iraq that these tanks are not here to be massed against the Syrian Army, because Jordan would never think of using them against an Arab land and an Arab army. Jordan massed its forces on its northern border only to defend its soil's dignity and freedom, after the Damascus rulers threatened to overrun it. Jordan did not begin this fabricated crisis, the causes and circumstances of which are now known to everyone.

Concluding its commentary, AD-DUSTUR says: The Damascus rulers want to pit the confrontation forces against each other and to wreck Arab strength, which was built with blood, efforts and sweat. They want to incapacitate the nation facing the Zionist threat and give Israel the opportunity to deal a fatal blow to the nation and reach the heart of pan-Arabism. They want to peddle the Palestinian issue and realize Israel's strategic dream of transforming the Arab-Zionist conflict into a destructive Arab-Arab conflict. They want to break the backbone of the Arab struggle on the eastern flank of the Arab nation and here on the front confronting Israel and its designs.

Whoever heard Husayn's speech yesterday realizes the undeniable fact that this homeland will continue to be the nation's shield and spearhead in confronting its enemies. It will continue to stretch its arm to any sincere pan-Arab action for the sake of the Palestinian issue and people. However, it will not allow anyone to attack it or to undermine its Arabism and stands. It will defend its soil to the last man and the last drop of blood.

DAILIES COMMENT ON JORDANIAN, SYRIAN WITHDRAWALS

JN111040 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Dec 80

[From the press review]

[Text] The mutual withdrawal of the Jordanian and Syrian forces from both sides of the border which came as a result of the good offices performed by Saudi Arabia was the topic of the commentaries in this morning's newspapers.

In a commentary entitled "The Return of the Two Armies to Their Normal Positions," AL-AKHBAR says: The serious phase through which our nation is passing requires that all Arab countries maintain the utmost degree of preparedness, awareness and ability to face effectively all dangers and challenges, including the possibility of a military confrontation with the Zionist enemy and its designs of invasion, expansion and aggression.

The simplest requirement of such preparations is that all Arab armies maintain their normal positions on the confrontation line with the Israeli enemy and with all the enemies of our nation, who do not distinguish between one Arab state and another and between different Arab regimes throughout the Arab region.

With the withdrawal of the military concentrations from the Syrian-Jordanian border, the forces of both countries will have returned to their normal positions on the confrontation line with the Zionist enemy so as to confront any aggression and defend Arab soil. These forces will now prepare to carry out their sacred duty in the fateful battle to end Israeli occupation and liberate land and holy places from the invaders.

Withdrawal of the military concentrations does not mean only avoidance of a military confrontation between two Arab armies. It also means building up the two armies in the confrontation trench against the enemy. This is the proper place for every Arab soldier who believes in his Arabism and is willing to sacrifice for the Palestinian cause, to regain usurped rights and to remove the shame of the defeat which has befallen our nation for long years because of disunity among its countries and diluting of its power.

Our only battle is with the Zionist enemy or any other power which tries to tamper with our sovereignt and liberty or attacks any part of our Arab land. This requires that all our armies be in the same confrontation trench and that all our guns be pointed at our enemies.

As for any disagreements or differences in viewpoint that may arise in the Arab arena, they may be handled by calm dialogue that avoids emotional sensations, accusations, casting doubts and attempts to impose hegemony and guardianship.

In a commentary titled "Positive Indications on the Northern Border," AR-RA'Y says: Out of a sincere wish to alleviate the tension which we have faced on our northern border and in order to enhance the Saudi good offices, the first fruits of which have appeared in the form of the gradual Syrian withdrawal, our forces, which were forced to take up positions there, have begun to withdraw and return to their previous positions.

Jordan took this positive step in accordance with its belief that the basic conflict must be only with the Zionist enemy. Jordan views this development as a beginning, worthy of support and encouragement, for purifying the Arab atmosphere and finding the right setting for constructive dialogue which will preserve the cohesion of Arab strength. This strength is the indispensable mainstay of the long struggle in confronting the common enemy.

Naturally, the indications of the relaxation of tension along the Syrian-Jordanian border must be viewed by Israel as an event contrary to its wishes. Israel did not hide its malicious joy throughout the military buildup crisis and it did not hide the evil hope it cherished as it expectantly awaited a clash between the two fraternal Arab armies.

AR-RA'Y goes on to say: Therefore, it will not be surprising if the Israeli mass media try to rekindle the disagreement which has been ended by describing the relaxation of tension along the border as the victory of one quarter over the other or by casting doubts on the feasibility of this relaxation and its continuity.

Jordan, which called for Arab solidarity, worked for it and remained committed to its hopes that this Arab solidarity will increase in context and that its bases will be strengthened in an Arab atmosphere which will swiftly regain its unity so that all the Arabs will be able to face the great challenges to which they are being subjected. This will enable them to struggle in unity for their fateful cause in the light of their unified strategy.

JORDANIAN-TURKISH JOINT STATEMENT ON MIDEAST

JN091312 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Jordanian-Turkish joint statement issued in Amman and Ankara on 9 December 1980, following Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen's 6-9 December visit to Jordan]

[Text] At the invitation of Marwan al-Qasim, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ilter Turkmen, foreign minister of the Republic of Turkey, made an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 6-9 December 1980.

During his visit to Jordan, Turkmen had the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and of conveying a message to his majesty from His Excellency Gen Kenan Evren, head of state of the Republic of Turkey. His excellency conveyed to his majesty the king an official invitation to visit Turkey. His majesty graciously accepted the invitation with thanks. It was agreed that the date of the visit will set soon.

Official talks were held between Marwan al-Qasim, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Ilter Turkmen, foreign minister of the Republic of Turkey, in an atmosphere of frankness that reflects the excellent friendly relations between the two countries. The two ministers exchanged viewpoints on the current international situation and on issues of common interest. They agreed that their discussions contributed to enhancing the spirit of bilateral understanding and cooperation. The two ministers also reviewed opportunities for strengthening relations between Jordan and Turkey. They agreed that great possibilities exist in various fields in terms of this cooperation. They agreed to increase their bilateral cooperation, in the interest of both countries.

In reviewing relations between Turkey and the Arab countries, the two ministers noted with satisfaction the development of the spirit of understanding and cooperation between Turkey and the Arab world. They agreed that this development contributes in an important manner to the area's peace, stability and prosperity. The two ministers agreed that the discovery of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem is an urgent and necessary matter, as it has been in the past. They stressed that the following principles are the necessary bases for reaching a just and lasting peace in the Middle East:

A. Total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967.

B. Recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination.

C. Restoration of the eastern part of Jerusalem to full Arab sovereignty.

The two ministers agreed that the recent Israeli measure in Jerusalem is null and void in international law and thus cannot have any legality. They stressed that this measure is in defiance of the Islamic world, which is linked to Jerusalem by historical, religious and moral relations of special significance. The two ministers also agreed that Israel's continued establishment of Jewish settlements on Arab land occupied since 1967, in defiance of UN resolutions and world public opinion, constitutes a major obstacle to peace and violates the principles of international law.

The Jordanian foreign minister expressed to the Turkish foreign minister the Jordanian Government's gratitude to the Turkish Government for its decision to downgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel to the minimal level, as a result of the Israeli Government's intransigent policy, which is increasing tension in the area.

The Turkish foreign minister extended an official invitation to the Jordanian foreign minister to visit Turkey. The invitation was accepted with thanks. It was agreed that the date of the visit will be fixed soon.

Turkish Minister's Departure

JN091230 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen left Amman at noon today following an official 3-day visit to Jordan.

JOINT PROTOCOL WITH USSR SIGNED IN DAMASCUS

JN101643 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] A joint protocol containing the minutes of the 11th session of the meetings of the Subcommittee on Irrigation and Water Projects, which stems from the Soviet-Syrian permanent Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation in all the projects of the Public Works and Water Resources Ministry in Syria, was signed.

During the meeting, which was held in Damascus 2 to 11 December, the two sides discussed issues pertaining to the implemention of their joint commitments in the field of designing and constructing water installations, which were provided for in the agreements of the years 1974 and 1975. The committee pointed out that, to guarantee the implementation of the executive plans concerning construction, Syrian and Soviet specialists have carried out their individual investigations and designs for the construction of the dam on the greater northern dam [as heard].

JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES

JN10932 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Dec 80

[Text] Damascus--A Japanese Diet delegation headed by Tashio Kimura, former Japanese foreign minister and Liberal Democratic Party leader, arrived in Damascus last night at the invitation of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]

The delegation was received at Damascus airport by Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman; Dr Husam al-Khatib, APU secretary general; the Japanese ambassador in Damascus; and the Japanese Embassy staff.

Kimura made a statement in which he expressed his pleasure and thanks for the invitation to visit Syria. He said: We intend to hold serious talks with members of the PNC and with PLO officials, especially the PLO Executive Committee in Beirut. We hope to deepen the understanding between the Palestinian and Japanese peoples by means of these talks and to acquaint the Japanese people with the Palestinian cause.

He added: We firmly believe that a solution to the Palestine cause is imperative because peace in the Middle East requires resolving the Palestine question. The Japanese people understand that the PLO must be at the heart of a solution to the Palestine question.

Kimura concluded by saying: We sincerely believe that the PLO should be accepted by the international community and we are very certain these meetings will have a major effect on reaching a just solution to the Palestinian cause and on strengthening understanding between the Palestinian and Japanese peoples.

The Japanese delegation is made up of 12 members representing all the parties in the Japanese parliament. They are accompanied by an 18-member press team.

ALGERIA

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT 10 DEC

FL101418 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today left Algiers at the conclusion of his official visit to Algeria as emissary of commander in chief Fidel Castro, chairman of the nonaligned countries movement. Malmierca held meetings with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia regarding the international situation, especially the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The principal objective of the Cuban foreign minister's visit was to exchange views on the search for a peaceful, fair and honorable solution to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

Malmierca also met in Algiers with Mozambique President Samora Machel who is on an official visit to Algeria and with the foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Abrahim Hakim.

MOROCCO

WOMEN OCCUPY UN OFFICE, DEMAND PRISONERS' RELEASE

NC101240 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Rabat, 10 Dec (AFP)--About 50 women occupied the front hall of the United Nations office here today to demand the liberation of 151 political prisoners still in Moroccan prisons. The wives, mothers and sisters said they were starting a 24-hour hunger strike to mark the anniversary of the universal declaration on human rights. An hour after the women walked into the UN office, no police were yet visible outside.

Ninety-one political prisoners were freed last July. But hopes the remainder would soon be released have not yet been fulfilled although a royal pardon was issued in August for certain opposition politicians in exile.

TUNISIA

MALTA'S MINTOFF MEETS MZALI; SPEECHES EXCHANGED

LD102020 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Tunisian-Maltese talks began at 1700 today at government house in Tunis with a meeting which included Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and his Maltese counterpart, Dom Mintoff, and the Tunisian foreign minister, Hassan Belkhodja. After this meeting which lasted 30 minutes the two sides held a full session. In the hour-long session they discussed questions of interest to bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

The Maltese prime minister this evening arrived in Tunis on an official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Mzali. The guest expressed the hope that the visit would contribute to the strengthening of existing relations between Tunisia and Malta. He also expressed the pleasure of the Maltese Government at Tunisia's decision to establish an embassy in the island, emphasizing that the establishment of the embassy would strengthen relations and cooperation between the two countries. He added in this connection that Malta wished to strengthen its cooperation with Tunisia in all fields especially in the security, political, trade and defense sectors. The Maltese prime minister stressed the attachment of the Tunisian and Maltese peoples to peace and the principles of nonalignment. He thanked President Bourguiba and Prime Minister Mzali for inviting him to Tunisia and in turn he invited Bourguiba and Mzali to visit Malta.

Banquet Speeches

LD110220 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The prime minister this evening held a banquet in Marsa in honor of the Maltese prime minister, Dom Mintoff. The two prime ministers exchanged speeches. Premier Mzali said that the Maltese and Tunisian peoples spoke one language in the full sense of the word, pursued one path and are motivated, especially at this time, by a deep desire to work in peace for a better future while conditions surrounding them in the Mediterranean are not at all reassuring. That is why we ardently struggle, whether in Valletta or Tunis, to make the Mediterranean a zone of peace, security and stability surrounded by states, each one of which respects the independence of the other and sincerely strives for the establishment of a necessary detente and fruitful cooperation, within a framework of solidarity. This is actually regarded as something natural.

The prime minister went on to speak about the Middle East saying that Tunisia, which was very attached to the principles of law and justice for over 15 years, has been calling for a just settlement on the basis of international law which can restore to the Palestinian people their inalienable national rights and open to them an opportunity for self-determination and for establishing an independent sovereign state under the leadership of their lawful representative, the PLO. No doubt the obstacle to a political solution of this kind is the expansionist and colonial policy of Israel.

Referring to the economic crisis in the world, Mzali said that there was no cure for the chaotic conditions in which international economic relations flounder other than the replacement of all the principles which have hitherto served as the basis of north-south relations with new principles which are just and take into account the needs of development in the weak countries.

Dom Mintoff began his speech with an expression of gratitude to the Tunisian leaders for the welcome accorded to him. Referring to the Palestinian question, he said his country was the first European state which called for Israel to return to pre-1967 borders and it has adhered to this stance toward the Arab nation in many international gatherings, stressing in this connection that peace in the Mediterranean could not be achieved unless the Palestinians regain their rights and exercise self-determination.

The Maltese prime minister explained that his country has opted for nonalignment, cooperation with the neighboring countries and a role as a link between Africa and Europe serving the ties of civilization and culture between the two continents and peace in the whole region--a role which enjoys the support of the Arab League and all Arab countries. Dom Mintoff said that the time had come to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of security, defense and trade.

U.S. 'EVASIVE' ON JOINT MANEUVERS PROPOSAL

TA101240 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Dec 80 p 1

[By Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The outgoing U.S. administration has given an evasive answer to a proposal made by Israeli representatives to hold joint U.S.-Israeli military maneuvers similar to those recently conducted in Egypt.

U.S. administration officials argued that they would prefer this issue to be discussed with the new administration when it assumes office on 20 January.

The issue of joint maneuvers was also raised during the talks conducted by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori with U.S. defense officials during Tzipori's visit to Washington.

It seems, however, that the U.S. administration wishes to evade discussing substantive political or strategic matters before the new president assumes office.

In Israel it is pointed out that the Israeli proposal made no mention whatsoever of bringing Egyptian troops into the joint maneuvers with the U.S. Army, so there are no grounds for the objection voiced by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak.

SOME DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON TO BE REPLACED

TA111022 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 80 p 2

[By 'Uzi Enziman]

[Text] Some of the diplomatic team in the Israeli Embassy in Washington will be replaced within the next few months.

Senior embassy diplomats who have spent several years in the United States are completing their terms in office within the next few months and new staff will be appointed to replace them. The replacements will permit the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry to refresh the embassy staff with the change of administration in the United States.

According to the evaluation of Foreign Ministry Director General Mr David Qimhi (who has returned from a visit to the United States), President Reagan's administration will place a heavier emphasis on the political competition with the Soviet Union in Europe than it will to dealing with the problems of the Middle East. Reagan's attitude toward Israel will be influenced by the tension [as published] between his promises and statements made during the election campaign and the identity of the aides who will surround him, some of whom are known to have ties with Arab elements.

ARENS INTERVIEWED ON TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

Comment on Administration

TA102021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Interview with the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MK Moshe Arens, by Washington correspondent Dan Raviv in Washington after Arens' meeting with Vice President-elect Bush on 10 December--recorded]

[Text] [Question] MK Arens, do you think we are to expect a substantial change in U.S.-Israeli relations when the Republicans assume power?

[Answer] I think that the most one could say at the moment is that Mr Reagan and his aides and advisers have, in the past few months, shown greater--or rather, I would say more realistic--fear of the Soviet threat. If this is indeed so, I believe it would serve as a basis for very close relations between Israel and the United States.

[Question] In the past, the Carter administration criticized certain elements in Israeli Government policy. Do you think there are chances that the Reagan administration would accept those elements criticized by the Carter administration, such as the settlements or the Jerusalem affair and that, as a result, relations with the new administration will be easier for the government?

[Answer] Look, I think it would be naive on our part to believe that since we and the United States share common interests and have common goals--and this is true for the present and will be true in the future as well, and they may be more pronounced than in the past--that, as a result of this, there will be no differences of opinion on how to go about achieving these goals and interests. Differences of opinion are bound to exist.

Comment on Percy

TA110735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Dec 80

[Interview with the head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MK Moshe Arens, by Shalom Qital in Washington after MK Arens' meeting with Senator Percy on 10 December--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Arens, you met with your colleague Senator Percy, the chairman-designate of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. What did he tell you about his talks in Moscow and the idea he aired there in favor of a Palestinian state?

[Answer] I think that what is important to us as Israelis is: A. That was a leak that distorted the remarks he made, namely, what was published was not what he said. B. His remarks on the Middle East and Palestinian issues were made to Gromyko, not to Brezhnev or to Ustinov. C. This may be the most important point--he prefaced his remarks on the Middle East issue in his talk with Gromyko by telling him that these are his views as a U.S. senator, while, as you know, it was published that his remarks were, as it were, coordinated with the Reagan administration.

[Question] There were various versions regarding his views as senator, though. What did he tell you? What are his positions regarding a Palestinian state and the West Bank?

[Answer] We talked about the Middle East--options, alternatives or policy that may aid in defending U.S. and Israeli interests. He thinks that King Husayn should be attracted to the negotiations and included in the political talks together with the Egyptians. He would like the Saudis to join later as well. He believes that the way to co-opt Husayn in the negotiations is for Israel to let Husayn understand it is ready to withdraw from Judaea and Samaria. Of course, I replied by saying this is not a useful or positive direction, neither from the point of view of Israel--this can only endanger and weaken the State of Israel--nor, in my opinion, from the point of view of U.S. interests.

MINISTER SHARON LEAVES FOR U.S. LECTURE TOUR

TA101135 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0815 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 10 Dec--Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon and his wife left this morning on El Al for a 5-day visit to the United States for several appearances and lectures on behalf of the Israel bonds campaign.

Speaking to an ITIM correspondent at the airport, Mr Sharon said he would be appearing in Chicago and Philadelphia and that at this time there are no plans to meet administration officials in Washington. He added that in his lectures he would present Israel's problems and would speak mainly about cooperation among the Jewish people in the diaspora, for the strengthening of Israel. He said his trip to the United States had been approved by the Cabinet, which had seen fit to accede to the request of the Israel bonds campaign, since Israel, in his view, needs to explain its position to U.S. Jews in order to help strengthen the country.

Asked about the nonacceptance of his recommendation for immediate Jewish settlement at Giv'on--as had been the case in a session of the ministerial committee on settlement--Mr Sharon said that since he has been heading the committee more than 120 settlements have been established throughout the country, including 50 in Galilee. He said that 3 years ago he had submitted for Cabinet approval a plan to establish a town at Giv'on. According to him, this plan was accepted and approved by the Cabinet.

"The subject that was up for discussion in the ministerial committee was whether to allow a settlement core group to settle immediately on one of the hills near the planned town. The point was made it was necessary to wait for a detailed town plan and for the establishment of an infrastructure. I explained to the committee that it is extremely urgent to settle Jews in places which have been planned for settlement, even if the detailed plan has not been completed. I recommended that this be done immediately and that the core group be allowed to move in. My stand was not accepted but the discussion of this issue will continue. I stand behind the recommendation that this hill must be settled immediately."

SOUTH AFRICA TO LOAN ISRAEL $200 MILLION

TA111024 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Dec 80 p 2

[Text] The South African Government is to give Israel loans totaling $200 million. This has already been decided in meetings held in Jerusalem with South African Minister of Finance Mr Owen Horwood. The loans are of various varieties and Mr Horwood agreed to far more favorable terms than those customary in the world market, both from the aspect of time and that of interest rates.

Mr Horwood came to Israel at the invitation of Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz who met him in Washington several months ago. Israel and South Africa have a joint economic committee that met for the first time in South Africa during the term of former Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich. In deliberations as yet not completed attempts are being made to finalize the establishment of a binational fund for investments in development and research, to total $100 million.

65 RAMALLAH STUDENTS ARRESTED; MOST RELEASED

TA100649 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] The Israeli military authorities yesterday arrested 65 Arab high school students in the West Bank town of Ramallah, after the students pelted Israeli soldiers with rocks. The high school principal charged that the students were beaten in the courtyard of the military government building, but the authorities deny this. Most of the 65 have now been released. In other incidents yesterday, two Israeli vehicles were stoned while driving through the West Bank. One of them was a taxi which had its windshield smashed as it drove through Az-Zahiriyah, south of Hebron. Another was a bus which had one of its windows broken. Soldiers on the bus opened fire on the attackers but they got away.

STEVENS ADDRESSES ROME AGRICULTURAL FUND MEETING

AB101323 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Text] President Siaka Stevens has today commended the work of the International Fund for Agricultural Development while addressing the fourth session of the governing council in Rome as chairman of the Organization of African Unity. Dr Stevens said that since the establishment of the fund, Sierra Leone in particular and Africa in general have watched with appreciation the special efforts of the fund in elaborating strategies and implementing programs which can improve and give a sense of security to the rural folk. These programs, the president said, are a step in the right direction and every encouragement must be given to the fund to continue its efforts.

The president highlighted the fact that uneven distribution and management of the world resources is the cause for the high death rate in the Third World resulting from malnutrition and lack of food. While advanced and industrialized countries spend large sums of money getting rid of calories acquired from eating and overeating, self-sufficiency in food production in the Third World remains a distant dream.

President Stevens said that to achieve the prospect of prosperity in food production, there must exist a most diligent and unrelenting commitment on the part of national governments as well as regional and international organizations.

At the national level, a deep consciousness of our profound responsibilities is necessary while at the regional and international organizations we must pool our resources and ensure the effectiveness of the machinery for international cooperation, he remarked. The president told the assembly that more than half the land surface of Africa is now subject to drought and desertification, which constitutes a land which, with little effort, can become arable and readily cultivable--a fact which confirms that given the necessary support, Africa as a region is capable of meeting its requirements of food and agricultural products as well as exporting the surplus to less well endowed continents.

As chairman of the OAU, continued President Stevens, I can tell you that Africa is now fully faced with the immensity of its issues, particularly the problems relative to the need to achieve an appreciable annual growth in agricultural production, to increase annual direct investment in agriculture and redirect [words indistinct] of resources to the rural areas, to facilitate a total involvement of our full human facilities and to eliminate persistent and pervasive malnutrition and hunger.

Conscious of these issues, the president went on, the African heads of state have agreed on a comprehensive plan of action which was adopted in Lagos earlier this year.

Concluding his address, President Stevens complimented the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for his enlightened perception, bold imagination, undoubted persistence and understanding which, he said, (?he) and his collaborators have applied to the study and resolution of the problems in a most crucial and critical sector of human endeavor.

ETHIOPIA

ERITREANS CARRY OUT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ASMARA

NC071015 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Dec 80

[Text] Doha, 7 Dec (QNA)--An Eritrean official has stated that the Eritrean Liberation Front has carried out several military operations in Asmara, the Eritrean capital. The Eritrean fighters, he said, blew up the (Bratlo) textiles factory where 2,000 Ethiopian workers are employed. These workers were brought in by Ethiopia to replace the Eritrean workers, as part of its plan to change the demographic structure of Eritrean.

Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Kabr, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces in the Gulf region who is currently in Doha, said that he received a cable from the battlefield yesterday saying that the Eritrean fighters also blew up the municipality premises in Asmara while Ethiopian military and civilian personnel were meeting there. Fifteen Ethiopians, he said, were killed.

In a statement to QNA, Abu Bakr said that these operations were the Eritrean Liberation Front's answer to the Ethiopian plan to settle Ethiopians in the Eritrean capital in order to change its demographic structure and benefit from the new situation when the proposed referendum in Eritrean is carried out.

EPLF OFFICIAL CITED ON BORDER ISSUE, SETTLEMENT

LD071926 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Sudan has closed her border to secessionist guerrillas operations in Ethiopia's Eritrea Province. A spokesman for EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front], Muhammad Said (Barreh), stated this in Khartoum yesterday.

The Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri, and the Ethiopian head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, agreed in Addis Ababa last month to prevent subversive activities against each other across their common borders.

The EPLF Politbureau member, Muhammad Said (Barreh), said in Khartoum that his organization had agreed to a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Ethiopia. He said that EPLF and ELF leaders would meet within 2 weeks to discuss the formation of a joint delegation for discussions with the Ethiopian government of peaceful settlement of the 18 year-old conflict. Sudan will act as mediator.

ADDIS ABABA DENOUNCES SOMALI CALL FOR READINESS

LD101148 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpt] Said Barre's call to the Somali people to be ready for war is a move intended to confuse the world and it has greatly surprised observers. Although this most amazing step cannot be viewed as different from Somalia's usual tactics--to prevent their people from concentrating on other issues and to cover up the ever-crowing internal problems--the decision to call on her people for war readiness is incomprehensible to many people. Reports reaching us from various sources confirm that the Mogadishu regime's call for readiness has been unheeded by the people and that it has created confusion among the people.

It is abundantly clear to the world that the Somali leadership has not respected laws, and that it has been repeatedly violating the principles of respect for the sovereignty of nations and nonviolability of borders, enshrined in the charters of the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned movement.

Contrary to Somalia's distortion of the Kenyan-Ethiopian joint communique and in contrast to Mogadishu's consistent provocations, Ethiopia and Kenya stand for peace and speak the same language of peace. Somalia's reply to the call made by Ethiopia and Kenya to join hands for regional peace and fruitful regional development was a call to its people to be ready for war. This call cannot allow anybody to relax his vigilance, nor can it change the well-known stand of its neighbors that Somalia should once and for all renounce its territorial claims, for the restoration of peace in the region.

GDR SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE CHIEF ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD100014 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpt] Comrade Kurt Krueger, secretary general of the GDR solidarity committee, arrived in Addis Ababa this afternoon for a 1-week working visit to socialist Ethiopia. In a statement on his mission, Comrade Kurt Krueger said that during his stay in Ethiopia, he would hold talks with officials of the Ethiopian Peace and Solidarity Committee on ways offurther strengthening the relations between the solidarity committees of the two countries.

KENYA

OUKA SAYS KENYA PREPARED TO DEFEND ITSELF

LD091519 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 9 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouka, has said that Kenya is prepared to defend itself against any possible external aggression. The minister was speaking in Kisumu during a reception hosted in honor of the visiting Japanese scientists who are taking a feasibility study of the Lake Basin Development Authority. Dr Ouka said neighboring countries who spend a lot of money on military material instead of development projects are now jealous of Kenya's achievements. He commended Kenya-Japan relations and thanked the Japanese Government for sending the scientists to help in the development of the project. Mr Ouka also thanked President Moi for establishing the lake basin authority so as to tap the resources in western Kenya.

The occasion was also attended by Higher Education Minister Mr John Kamotho, who said Kenya was grateful to Japan for building the Jomo Kenyatta Agricultural College, which is to open in May.

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS MENG STU VISIT FRUITFUL

LD061950 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 6 Dec 80 EA

[Text] His Excellency Dr Ouka, foreign minister of Kenya, has said that if Kenya and Ethiopia use the goodwill of their peoples and their leaderships, the two countries are capable of making, separately or in unison, vast and varied contributions to the well-being of their peoples, of Africa and of the human race in general. His Excellency Dr Ouka said this in a statement he made to Ethiopian journalists covering the visit of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam to Kenya.

Noting that the visit of Comrade Chairman Mengistu to Kenya was undoubtedly fruitful, His Excellency Dr Ouka said that the visit had proved that the friendship between Ethiopia and Kenya was a lasting and not a passing phenomenon. The Kenyan foreign minister pointed out that Comrade Chairman Mengistu's visit was an example of how neighboring countries should live in peace and cooperation by taking all possible measures to create understanding, eliminating misunderstandings completely and expanding fields of cooperation and development.

Adding that the resolve of the peoples of Ethiopia and Kenya to advance together by extending development and improving their standards of living in their respective countries was an example to Africa, the foreign minister expressed gratification with the good relations between the two countries.

Replying to what should be done if Somalia refuses to give the appropriate response to the repeated demands on Ethiopia and Kenya to abandon its aggressive and expansionist aims and to renounce its territorial claims on Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. He said: Ethiopia and Kenya will continue with their efforts to prove that neighbors can live as neighbors only when they can live in peace. His Excellency Dr Ouka pointed out that if there was a country which did not want to live in peace with its neighbors, the other neighbors should stand hand-in-hand to withstand aggression and to foil the attempt to disrupt the peace of the region.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH KENYA

LD101850 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1415 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Speech by President Mohamed Siad Barre on 9 December at the Armed Forces Park in Mogadishu--recorded]

[Excerpt] On the Kenyan people, we shall not say much. We believe that a few notorious and warmongering elements have said what Mengistu wanted them to say. That is what we believe because we know that the people were massacred in the NFD [Kenya's northeastern province] and that the Abyssinian ambassador was part of the decisionmaking group present not only on the occasion when a decision to massacre the people was being made, but also when the massacre was taking place. He was directing the operations. We are sure of that, with no doubt whatsoever. We know this is not all of the Kenyan people, it is only a few warmongering elements.

We have no hatred for the Kenyan people and we shall not harbor any ill will against them. We request the Kenyan president and his advisers to study the whole crisis in depth, to those who wish to start crises like the one Mengistu has started, where colonizers and colonialists are struggling and where there is a fierce fire raging in all parts of Ethiopia, we hope that such a situation does not happen in Kenya and fires do not spread to Kenya.

On our relations with and our political stand towards Kenya, we have said this time and time again and I hope I don't need to repeat it again.

Challayal, thank you very much.

MESSAGES CONDEMN KENYAN-ETHIOPIAN COMMUNIQUE

LD100045 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 9 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpts] Messages of support are pouring in at the secretariat of the president and the SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY for the resolutions of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee and the National Assembly condemning the so-called communique issued by Abyssinia and Kenya and for the call to be ready to defend the existence, dignity and sovereignty of Somalia.

The messages generally condemned the irresponsible and irrelevant so-called communique recently issued by Abyssinia and Kenya. The messages emphasized their support for and commitment to the resolutions by the committees on the pooling of resources for the defense of their country, and its independence, dignity and sovereignty.

MINISTER SCORES AL-QADHDHAFI AID TO ETHIOPIA

LD062034 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 6 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpts] The minister of justice and religious affairs, Challe Ahmad Shire Mohamud, recently participated in a gathering to mark the 15th century of the Islamic calender which was held at the headquarters of the Arab League educational, scientific and cultural organization in Mogadishu.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Challe Ahmad Shire Mohamud spoke of how he was surprised to note that a Muslim head of state, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is supposed to champion the Islamic course, had chosen to insult the entire Muslim community and, more so, Muslim heads of state. Al-Qadhdhafi has lately chosen to follow a policy detrimental to the Muslim leaders and countries and the Islamic course in general.

The minister added that the Libyan leader has been poisoning the Muslim world by planting indifference and spreading baseless lies harmful to the mutual respect, cooperation and brotherly relations among Muslims. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi had also chosen to betray those Muslims fighting for their liberation--such as the Eritrean, Western Somali and Abo peoples who are struggling to liberate their lands from the Abyssinian colonialists--by giving large sums of money and material to the Abyssinians.

The lethal weapons the colonialists are using to annihilate and massacre the Muslims struggling to liberate themselves from the Abyssinians have either been purchased with Libyan money or have come from their stores, the minister said. The Libyan leader has chosen not only to provide money and arms to the Abyssinians but also to pay the huge bills incurred by the Abyssinians and their backers during their fruitless campaigns at the international gathering to buy votes and favors, said Challe Ahmad Shire Mohamud.

The minister finally called upon the Libyan leader to, instead of joining hands with those who choose to destroy the Muslim peoples who are fighting for their right of self-determination, support other Muslims in their aid to Muslims living under the barbarous Abyssinian regime.

The minister also spoke of the series of air raids by the Abyssinian air force against towns in the Somali Democratic Republic. The minister added that if the Abyssinians were not receiving support from big and rich countries they would not have dared attack Somalia. He called upon other states to stop their shameless provocative support to the Addis Ababa regime.

WSLF FIGHTERS CLASH WITH ETHIOPIAN ARMY

7 Dec

LD071507 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and ABO Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 7 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Heroic Western Somali Liberation Front freedom fighters and Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers were recently involved in bitter clashes at (Sed Der) and (Aw Barreh) during which the freedom fighters set a loaded enemy truck on fire and killed eight enemy soldiers, including an officer.

8 Dec

LD082058 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 8 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The heroic Western Somali Liberation Front freedom fighters attacked Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers based at (Goladi), near Babile, 35 km east of Harar, on 2 December, killing 36 enemy soldiers as well as destroying 3 trucks and 4 artillery pieces and capturing 25 AK rifles.

The Abyssinian soldiers then turned on the civilian population in the area, consisting mainly of women, children and elderly people, killing 55 people and stealing a large number of their livestock.

TWO ETHIOPIAN PLANES ATTACK SOMALI VILLAGE

LD101824 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Text] An urgent ministry of defense statement we received this afternoon states that today at 1200 two MiG-21's of the Abyssinian air force attacked the village of (Hobsho) in the El Berde District, Bocol area.

The provocative invasion by the Abyssinian air force killed 3 civilians, wounded 10 others and burned down 13 (?stores) and destroyed 3 houses, all belonging to civilians.

The invasion was bravely repulsed by the air defense force of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR].

As everyone can remember the Abyssinian forces have launched similar attacks recently in the districts of Adado, (Galcaio) and Dusa Mareb, where they caused casualties and damage to civilians and civilian property.

The provocative incursion by the Abyssinian air force against SDR towns follows the so-called joint communique recently released by the governments of Abyssinia and Kenya, aimed at harming the existence of the Somali people.

SSF REPORTS KILLING 197 SOMALI ARMY TROOPS

LD082248 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 8 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The Radio Kulmis reporter accompanying the General Aynanshe Battalion states that in the course of several engagements in the Ghel Ghel Guduct, Mudugh and Nogal regions from 2 to 5 December, the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] killed 197, captured 39 unhurt and wounded many more officers and men of big mouth's [Siad Barre's] militia--the militia which does not know why it is fighting and which is being forced to go to the front.

The intrepid SSF forces also captured three trucks, four self-propelled guns, two armored personnel carriers, two Fiat trucks, a jeep, six 120-mm guns, two radio communications sets and three N-3 Fiat trucks. Our reporter at the front says that big mouth's forces also lost: two armored personnel carriers burnt out, three 120-mm self-propelled guns blown up, and three 85-mm guns burnt out. The SSF forces also burned a large quantity of tents, rations and medicines, assorted rifles, ammunition and other military equipment.

Our reporter went on to say that our gallant forces, who gained the upper hand in all the engagements they fought, suffered no casualties and returned safely to their base.

FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ROMANIA 1-4 DEC

For Bucharest reportage and "release" on the visit to Romania by Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre, see the Romania section of the 2, 3, 4, and 9 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

UGANDA

OBOTE GIVES PREELECTION PRESS CONFERENCES

8 Dec Conference

LD091740 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The President of Uganda People's Congress [UPC], Dr Obote, has made it clear that if UPC does not come out with a majority in the forthcoming elections, they shall admit the defeat and just be in opposition in Parliament, while hoping to win the next elections. Dr Obote, who was reacting to questions in a press conference held at the international conference center yesterday evening, told journalists that UPC is going to the elections with an open heart. He said UPC will not use force and, for your own information, he added, we are the only party that has condemned violence. He said UPC [words indistinct] the electorate.

Answering a question about the observers' team, Dr Obote told journalists that he does not see any good reason why Uganda's elections should be questioned. If, he asked, Sergeant Doe or General Amin could take over a government by force of arms and be recognized by Commonwealth countries, why should they have to observe elections of the sovereign state of Uganda?

Dr Obote categorically stated that the issue of a one-party state in Uganda is out. He reiterated that the circumstances prevailing in Uganda are that we need a government of national reconciliation where all parties are represented. He said the country needs the brains of all the members of the four parties to succeed in the task of rehabilitating Uganda.

The UPC president dispelled any (?belief) that he may have any influence over the military commission. He stressed that he is not interested in a military government, nor a government that has not been elected by the people.

He was optimistic that a form of cooperation with neighbors of Uganda is very possible after elections. He said Uganda and her neighbors have common interests and he does not see any grounds for friction with any of them.

The press conference was also attended by the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr Anyoti; Mr [name indistinct] and a staunch UPC supporter, Mr [name indistinct].

5 Dec Conference

LD052018 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 Dec 80 EA

[Excerpt] The president of UPC [Uganda Peoples Congress], Dr Apolo Milton Obote, has said that his party has never and will not be engaged in any electoral malpractices because it does not serve any purpose.

Addressing a news conference at the Uganda International Conference Center in Kampala, Dr Obote said that as far as the UPC is concerned, election is a matter of honor to disprove foreign mass media, which have been propagating that Dr Obote and his party, the UPC, are extremely unpopular in Uganda. He said the Wednesday general election is going to be the right time to test the degree of support of the party and stressed that UPC does not want a vote to be given to it unwillingly by a voter.

Dr Obote was surprised that, in spite of his recent press conference, there continue to be attacks on UPC for all kinds of things, which if anybody took trouble to look into, would discover the truth. [sentence as heard]

Dr Obote refuted allegations that some candidates for other political parties were stopped deliberately at road blocks on their way to nomination centers. When asked why only the UPC Party was able to get candidates nominated unopposed, the party president said it was organization and being conversant with election laws. He revealed that a conference and seminars for all UPC candidates had been held some days earlier to go through and acquaint themselves with these laws.

The UPC president pointed out that there are some people who believe that elections in Uganda can only be free and fair if it is made that UPC will lose.

On the formation of a national government, Dr Obote said that if his party comes to power, he would take this move because he believes it is good for reconciliation. He said that UPC is in politics to serve the country.

On UPC foreign policy, the party president said that his party strongly believes in th policy of nonalignment. Dr Obote said UPC would like to play a big role to bring about peace in the world but the state of affairs inside Uganda calls for attention first. He said all possible efforts and resources would be used to improve the situation and build Uganda first.

ARMY COMMANDER MAKES STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

LD102038 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The commander of the UNLF [Uganda National Liberation Front], Maj Gen Tito Okello, has expressed delight on hearing that polling around Kampala and throughout the country has been peaceful and orderly. Maj Gen Tito Okello said this in a statement issued this evening after receiving reports from the commanding officers, Brig Oyite Ojok, and the commanding officer of the 15th battalion, Lt Col (Bazilio Ola) Okelo, who have been visiting polling stations around Kampala and Entebbe and checking with electoral commission reports.

The major general praised Ugandans for their peaceful attitude and love for political progress of the country after today's election. He called on Ugandans to treat this day as a day of rebirth when Uganda will once more have its rightful place in Africa and the world community. He recalled that Uganda achieved its independence on 9 October 1962 from the British after proving its maturity through discussion. Amin then distorted Uganda's freedom as a free and democratic country by the barrel of the gun on 25 January 1971, and Ugandans should not forget the dark period through which they suffered untold damage in lives and property.

Amin was toppled by force of arms in a joint effort by Ugandan exiles and those at home, together with their brothers in the Tanzania People's Defense Forces. Maj Gen Tito Okello emphasized that the UNFL came home desirous to reestablish a civil democratic government in the country. He therefore compared the democratic election, which reached its climax today, to a game of football where various teams participate and expect to win or lose.

The major general went on to say that in each sport there are rules (?of the game) and any player who infringes them is subject to a penalty. Therefore, he advised all political parties to cooperate and work together with the party that wins the election to bring about meaningful development to end the great suffering the 12 million Ugandans have experienced in the last 10 years.

He warned politicians who were operating from within and outside Uganda, in collaboration with Amin's henchmen, that Uganda will treat such people as enemies and, should they continue, the security forces will deal with them like enemies of the land. He appealed to those Ugandans who were outside but would like to come back to do so peacefully because Uganda needs all its citizens to return home and participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the land.

In conclusion, he paid special tribute to the Ministry of Information for the untiring effort to keep the masses informed about developments in the country and hoped the entire staff of the ministry will accord the same cooperation to the new government.

The major general issued this statement when he visited radio Uganda this afternoon. He was accompanied by the commanding officer of the 15th battalion, Lt Col (Bazilio Ola) Okelo.

MAIN PARTIES JOINTLY APPEAL AGAINST VIOLENCE

LD091710 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The leaders of the four political parties contesting the general elections have signed a joint declaration appealing to the people of Uganda to desist from any activity designed to influence voting by threat or force.

In the declaration, the leaders of the four political parties noted that during the past 8 years the people of Uganda have suffered grievously. Many lives have been lost, the economy devastated and we have endured both personal and national humilation. For us to embark successfully on the process of rebuilding and revitalizing our nation, they said, all of us recognize as essential our parties commitment to the democratic process, a process which alone carries a guarantee that our human rights and freedom will never again be circumscribed.

They stressed that, whatever their differences, they are at one in their pledge to serve Uganda and all her people.

'SPECIAL STATEMENT' EXTENDS VOTING TO 11 DEC

LD101438 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1405 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Text] Here is a special statement from the electoral commission:

In view of the fact that many polling stations opened late throughout the country, because materials arrived late due to transport problems, the electoral commission has made a decision on the following matters:

1. Polling stations should remain open to allow voters who are presently at the polling stations to finish voting;

2. After all the voters presently at the polling stations have finished voting, the presiding officer, his assistant, the political party agents, the chiefs and the security officers on duty at each police station shall remain on guard duty throughout the night and until tomorrow morning;

3. Polling stations shall be reopened tomorrow morning, the 11th December 1980, between the hours of 7 am and 2 pm to allow voters who did not have the chance to cast their votes to vote;

4. Counting shall start immediately at 2 pm throughout the country;

5. Presiding officers should note that counting shall start tomorrow, 11th December 1980, throughout the country without exception regardless of the polling station where voting has been completed.

UNLA COMMANDER RETURNS FROM USSR, DPRK

LD082320 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The commander of the Uganda National Liberation Army, who is also a member of the military commission, Maj Gen Tito Okello, has returned home after a 1 and 1/2 week official visit to the Soviet Union and North Korea. He was welcomed at Entebbe Airport by the army chief of staff, Brig Oyite Ojok; the commander of the Tanzania People's Defense Force, Brig (Woda); the North Korean ambassador to Uganda, Mr Chang To-Ho, and many high-ranking military officers.

Maj Gen Tito Okello described his mission as very successful. He was accompanied by the secretary for defense, Mr (Ochanda), and other senior army officers.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR ZAIRE FOR TALKS

LD102034 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Dec 80 EA

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Otema Alimadi, has left for Kisangani, Zaire, for an official visit. He was accompanied by the Zairian ambassador to Uganda, Mr Bukasa, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The minister is expected to hold talks with Zairian authorities on bilateral relations between the two countries.

BURUNDI

GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

AB082015 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1128 GMT 8 Dec 80

["Text" of the communique of the summit conference of the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes issued in Bujumbura on 7 December]

[Text] Bujumbura, 7 Dec (AZAP)--At the invitation of His Excellency Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, president of the Republic of Burundi, president of the National Unity and Progress Party [UPRONA] and current chairman of the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes [CEPGL], the fourth ordinary session of the CEPGL conference of heads of state was held in Bujumbura from 6 to 7 December 1980.

The heads of state at the talks were His Excellency Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, president of the Republic of Burundi and president of the UPRONA; His Excellency Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Republic of Rwanda; and His Excellency Gen Mobutu Sese Seko, founding president of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR] and president of the Republic of Zaire. The talks between the three heads of state centered on issues of common interest on the conference agenda.

On the community's administration and budget, the conference adopted a new budget for the 1981 fiscal year, with the orginary budget totaling 1,684,252 units of account and the extraordinary budget 898,138 units of account.

In the legal sphere, the conference signed an amendment to Article 13 of the convention creating CEPGL. It also approved an amendment to Article 3 of the standing orders of the Council of Ministers and state commissioners. The changes were necessary because the number of the countries' annual sessions were reduced from two to one session a year.

With respect to higher education, the three heads of state urged the officials concerned to comply with the instructions contained in the cultural, scientific and technical agreement signed in Kigali on 21 June 1975. The three heads of state recalled the solemn commitment of the signatories to the agreeemtn to facilitate, among other thing, the admissions of students from other community countries to the educational institutions. This is why the conference decided that students of all member countries will enjoy equal status in institutions of higher learning. The implementation of that decision will take into account the size of the various universities and other educational institutions.

In the economic sphere, the heads of state signed the CEPGL general expenditure book. The book is expected to regulate the contracts on projects and supplies requested by the Permanent Executive Secretariat and all the specialized bodies of the community. The conference asked the ministers and the commissioner of state to sign the postal guidelines concerning routing mail and parcels to border posts and sending money orders within the community.

To comply with the decision adopted at the Lubumbashi summit on the free movement of officials and businessmen of member states, the conference has decided that the special authorization of such travel will take effect 1 January 1981. In this regard, the ministers and commissioner of state signed the regulations concerning the free movement of officials and businessmen within the CEPGL.

The conference approved the recommendations of the council on the strategy for industrial development and on the criteria for evaluating projects involving the community. The conference also reaffirmed that projects, institutions and bodies can only be accepted after feasibility studies have been carried out.

The conference reaffirmed the community's interest in the bottle and glass factory project. It also decided to make the cement plants at Katana, Zaire, and Mashyuza, Rwanda community projects. The principle of harmonizing the prices of the two plants was accepted. The conference adopted the plans for the activities of the CEPGL permanent executive secretariat for 1980-1981 as well as the timetable for meetings during the same period. The conference elected His Excellency Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of Rwanda and founding president of the National Revolutionary Development Movement, president of the conference of CEPGL heads of state for 1980-1981 and Citizen Inonga Lokongo Lome, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Republic of Zaire, was appointed current chairman of the Council of Ministers and state commissioner for the same period.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO ADDRESSES NATIONAL RECOVERY SEMINAR

AB091412 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 8 Dec 80

[Speech by President David Dacko at the opening ceremony of a seminar on national recovery being held in Bangui from 8-14 December 1980--recorded]

[Text] The difficulties facing the CAR in its developmental efforts can be attributed mainly to the damages caused by economic and financial (?disorder) as well as to frictions caused by current political and social dissent. This implies that no redress nor recovery is possible unless serious measures aimed at releasing tension [few words indistinct] are taken beforehand. Judging from the analysis of general opinion it seems that the main causes of the CAR's malaise, as well as the obstacles which are presently paralyzing the harmonious advancement of our country can be summed up in five points: Lack of a structure for consultation based on the true desire for national compromise; lack of a national assembly and an economic council; lack of incentives for the youth which finds itself removed from national activities; problems linked with the trial of Bokassa and his acolytes and which are used in campaigns; the lack of efficient solutions to the problems of social calamities and moral depravity which developed during the Bokassa regime; finally, absence of a coherent external policy for cooperation and technical assistance.

Therefore, as I stressed in my appeal, no regime can govern for long if it does not seek the opinion of the people. This is why I think that any political action which is not the outcome of a national compromise reached between nationals is bound to fail. It is therefore my wish that before democratic and constitutional institutions are established favorable conditions should be set up for the rational creation of structures for national consultation to permit the expression of different opinions on the fundamental orientations of the nation within an atmosphere of conciliation. I therefore thought that the institution of a national seminar from 8 to 14 December composed exclusively of representatives of national political movements, representatives of youth movements, representatives of workers' unions, representatives of employers' unions, representatives of women organizations, representatives of the national army, representatives of the people of each territorial district, individuals with knowledge of national problems and the audience would contribute in a large measure towards releasing tension in the present political atmosphere especially if such a measure is linked with measures in favor of persons presently deprived of freedom because of their political opinions.

The seminar, a framework for appropriate dialogue, will enable all active elements of the nation to strive strictly for the strengthening of national unity, which should lead to a vast rally [words indistinct] national union for the independence and the rebirth of the CAR and of all the political families in the country.

Such national unity would, while preserving the internal autonomy of each federal movement, eliminate the negative effects of a multi-party system and contribute towards promoting a policy of the national interest.

PRESIDENT DACKO RELEASES POLITICAL PRISONERS

AB081600 Paris AFP in French 1140 GMT 8 Dec 80

[Text] Bangui, 8 Dec (AFP)--Several political militants of Mr Ange Patassen's Central African People's Liberation Movement, Mr Abel Goumba's Ubangi People's Patriotic Front and Mr Sylvestre Bangui's Ubangi People's Liberation Front who had been detained or put under house arrest because of their dissent have been released, it was officially learned Sunday in Bangui.

This action, which does not apply to Bokassa's acolytes, shows President David Dacko's willingness to involve every Central African citizen in building a new society and in making decisions on major national issues which could benefit the recovery program. On this occasion, the same sources continued, Mr Dacko has asked his countrymen to show tolerance, solidarity and a true desire for dialogue.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI SAYS LOME AGREEMENT LAST CHANCE FOR PEACE

AB110915 Paris AFP in English 0738 GMT 11 Dec 80

[Text] Ndjamena, 11 Dec (AFP)--Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei said he would not hold talks with the forces of rebel Defence Minister Hissein Habre if they refused to sign a cease-fire agreement due to come into force 15 Dec, the Chadian News Agency has reported here.

In a message to the nation, quoted by the news agency, the Chadian president said the coalition government of transition had made every possible effort to restore peace in the country and had even held secret talks with the rebels to end the conflict. The peace settlement worked out in Lome was the last chance for peace in Chad, the president said, adding that in his opinion, the rebels wanted to continue the war until final victory.

Mr Goukouni also said that those who thought it expedient to raise the specter of a Libyan invasion in Chad, as a grave threat to the African continent, fortified the rebels in their stubbornness to carry on with the war.

The situation on all the Ndjamena fronts was favorable to the governmental forces, the Chadian progovernment agency reported yesterday. This followed 2 days of heavy fighting in the capital. The Chadian news agency also denied a rebel report which said that 2,000 Libyan troops and 50 tanks, with air cover, had taken part, on the side of President Goukouni's forces, in the biggest offensive of the war. The major offensive launched Sunday evening by government troops against Mr Habre's rebel forces had disorganized all enemy resistance and enabled the government troops to take control of a large area abandoned by the rebels, the agency added.

It also said that during recent fighting, government troops killed some 393 rebels and wounded 600 more, who were evacuated to the Kousseri hospital, in Cameroon, across the river from Ndjamena. Medical sources at Kousseri said some 16 wounded rebels had arrived there Monday and Tuesday.

Radio Chad, for its part, yesterday night reported the arrival of Benin soldiers in Tougia, some 60 kms (45 miles) to the northwest of the capital, to join government forces in the fight against the rebels. According to the radio, the Benin forces are to help the Libyan troops already involved in the field.

BENIN

SRV'S GIAP CONCLUDES VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

AB091140 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 8 Dec 80

[Text] The visit of the vice premier of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the People's Republic of Benin ended this morning. Gen Vo Nguyen Giap left Cotonou this morning. He was seen off at the Cotonou international airport by our great comrade in arms, President Kerekou, who was accompanied by members of the Central Committee of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party, the permanent committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly, the permanent committee of the National Executive Council and of the diplomatic corps, as well as a crowd of militants of our democratic and popular revolution. Shortly before his departure, Gen Vo Nguyen Giap kindly addressed a message of friendship and solidarity to the Beninese people:

[Begin recording] We are about to leave you. One is always sad to leave someone, especially when one is leaving behind brothers and sisters who have accorded one a fraternal welcome. We are leaving but our sentiments and hearts remain with you. There is a joint communique as well as a protocol agreement about which you will read later in the press. All this is a demonstration of the identity of views between our delegation and the authorities of the People's Republic of Benin. Unity is strength. The identity of views between our two parties, peoples and governments will help promote our relations [words indistinct].

Let me now tell you about my impression. They are very beautiful and unforgettable. The reception accorded us by our Beninese brothers and sisters in Cotonou [words indistinct] and everywhere we went is unforgettable. [passage indistinct] We are engaged in a socialist revolution because we love our country. [passage indistinct] I believe that all the Beninese citizens--both men and women--love their country. That is why they are engaged in a socialist revolution. This is the correct path. The policies of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party constitute the decisive factor of the present and future victories of the revolution. We hope that the officers and combatants of the popular army will (?serve) their people well and devote themselves completely to the Beninese fatherland. [sentence indistinct] We hope that the leaders of the trade unions will manage the enterprises well. Revolution means production. We hope that the peasants will (?continue to work hard). The Beninese are good farmers. This is very good! They must work hard to increase production. The fishermen must do their work well. You have the sea as well as the river. This means that you have a lot of fish. The artisans must also do their work well; the traders also must conduct their trade well in the people's interest.

I would also like to say a word to the intellectuals. Well, the intellectuals have a very important place in countries like ours. More than other people, the intellectuals must love their country, the Beninese fatherland. [passage indistinct]. We also rejoice about the fraternal relations existing between Benin and the friendly and brotherly countries, the good neighborly relations between Benin and the neighboring countries and the relations of peaceful, coexistence with countries with different social systems. As I told your president, Benin is not a great country as far as its size and population are concerned. But the role and importance of a nation have nothing to do with its size or population. [passage indistinct] We are sure that you will succeed in your progress on the path of the revolution and of socialism. Hand in hand, we the Vietnamese and Beninese peoples will do everything to strengthen our active friendship and fraternity in the interest of our people's well-being, social progress, democracy, national independence and peace in Asia, Africa, and the whole world. We thank our brothers and sisters of Benin [words indistinct]. [end recording]

At the end of the banquet organized in honor of the Vietnamese delegation, Gen Vo Nguyen Giap was made grand officer of the Beninese National Order by President Kerekou.

GHANA

RADIO COMMENTS ON REAGAN FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS

AB091754 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] The election of Ronald Reagan to the office of the president of the United States has received a mixed reception, especially in the Third World. His pronouncements on foreign policy issues do not give cause for comfort to Third World countries.

Reagan has in recent years repeatedly recommended the use of American military force in various foreign situations. For example, he suggested a U.S. naval blockade of Cuba in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He also said that U.S. soldiers could have been used to ensure an orderly transition to black majority rule in Zimbabwe in 1976.

Reagan firmly believes not only that the Soviet Union seeks world domination but that every time the Carter Administration has failed to respond to its show of force, the Soviet Union has been encouraged to push on. It is certainly true that the Carter Administration has conveyed a sense of meekness and vacillation in its failure to project American power abroad. Reagan in the White House will undoubtedly try to be more consistent in foreign policy and more given to international power politics. He will reduce Carter's moralistic emphasis on human rights, using that course as propaganda against communist countries, but not employing it against U.S. allies even if the regimes are dictatorial.

The potential risk of a Reagan foreign policy probably is not so much outright belligerency as a tendency to divide the world into good guys and bad guys. He seems to underestimate the complexity of the situation in the Third World countries, where not all the revolutionary movements are necessarily pro-Soviet or permanently anti-American. Evenhandedness in delicate trouble spots or the talks that enabled Carter to bring about the Camp David accords does not seem much in Reagan's character. His one-sided defense of the Israeli position (?leads) to little credibility in the Arab world. And here we pause to ask: Will a candidate who has sounded so belligerent actually act that way when he faces the real rather than the hypothetical powers of the presidency? There is no way to be sure. And here lies the problem for Africa in particular and the Third World in general.

Namibia and South Africa are fighting for black majority rule. Will Reagan, now that his presidency is a reality, be guided by the principle of self-determination and see that legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa are fulfilled? Or will he stand by his allies and disregard the just and genuine rights of all to determine the course of their own future? Africa and the Third World in general may take inspiration from the fact that the president-elect's own policy when he was governor of California turned out to be more moderate than his campaign for that office had suggested.

DAILY SAYS GOVERNMENT MUST ANTICIPATE, HALT PLOTS

AB091743 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Writing under the heading "Deal With the Subversive Elements" The GHANAIAN TIMES says it is reassuring that the government has promised to deal firmly with what the paper calls any self-crowned revolutionaries who might want to disturb the smooth running of the country. But it points out that it is not enough that the government to collect information about the illegal and subversive activities of some individuals and let matters rest there. The government must ensure that necessary steps are taken to nip in the bud any diabolical plans before they take shape [words indistinct].

GUINEA

PRESIDENT, YUGOSLAVIA'S HODZA SPEAK AT AIRPORT

AB091725 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Militants of party branches in the capital gathered today at the Conakry Gbessia international airport and at the Congress Hall of the People's Palace to receive with revolutionary zeal and enthusiasm the vice president of the Presidency of the SFRY, Comrade Fadil Hodza. The distinguished guest of our popular revolution was received at 0830 at the steps of his plane by his friend and comrade in arms and supreme leader of the revolution, Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Welcoming our guest, President Sekou toure said:

[Begin recording] Your Excellency Comrade Fadil Hodza, member of the Presidium of the SFRY, very dear comrade members of the presidential entourage, your excellencies the members of the diplomatic and consular corps, very dear brothers and members of the African delegations attending the current Conakfry conference of the African Association for Agricultural Credit and comrade militants:

In the name of the revolutionary people of Guinea, we are very happy about this friendly visit by one of the illustrious leaders of the brotherly and friendly country of Yugoslavia. We remember, in fact, that during the admission of our young state into the UN, Yugoslavia was among the countries which played a major role to ensure our unanimous admission. [applause] Faithful to its policies, that country did not fail to demonstrate its friendship and esteem for the Guinean people by organizing a sincere and fruitful cooperation with our country. Yusolsavia's political support and assistance to us in the economic, social and cultural fields clearly demonstrate that country's desire to help all the newly independent nations to safeguard their sovereignty and obtain, in a peaceful atmosphere, the possibility of developing their economy and culture.

There is no small country or nation. When a country or nation sticks to a universal philosophy, adopts an attitude of total responsibility and is prepared to participate actively in the construction of a new world and society, it becomes part of an entity which is the constantly changing world. Our present world is a troubled world which is experiencing galloping inflation. The economies of our nations are in difficulty. Tensions, therefore, exist and there are wars in some parts of the world. The war between Israel and the Arab countries continues. The State of Israel is still occupying some Arab territories. The legitimate and natural rights of the martyred Palestinians are still being challenged. War still rages between Iran and Iraq, which are member states of the nonaligned movement. The liberation struggle continues in Africa with the scorn of the imperialist forces and the unconditional support of the nonaligned movement. Those outside the nonaligned movement must understand that the organization's objectives are not against the greatness of any country or regime in the world. Nonalignment is a philosophy which is in conformity with the legitimate aspirations of all peoples no matter the characteristics of their social and political regimes. We salute the distinguished representatives of the brotherly country of Yugoslavia and we would like to assure them here, as we often did in their country, of the complete preparedness of the Guinean revolution to assume--like all the other members of the nonaligned movement--its responsibilities as a state engaged in a struggle for total liberation, a state open to international cooperation on the basis of equality and fraternity and determined to make a good contribution to the advent of a world of peace and sincere brotherhood. [applause] Comrade Fadil Hodza, we wish you welcome and pray you to feel at home.

Replying, Mr Fadil Hodza said:

[Begin recording in Serbo-Croatian with translation superimposed] Your Excellency Comrade President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, Ahmed Sekou Toure, distinguished members of the national Political Bureau and of the Central Committee and the government, your excellencies the members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Guinea:

Since you have given me this opportunity, please allow me to begin by thanking you for the warm and fraternal reception you are giving us today. Comrade president, we salute you as an illustrious statesman and faithful friend of Yugoslavia and Africa. Your name is closely linked with the struggle against colonialism [words indistinct]. We have been following with great sympathy the enormous efforts you have been making to ensure a better future and we sincerely rejoice over all your successes. [applause] You have made personal contributions to the struggle for the freedom and independence of the peoples of Africa and in other parts of the world against imperialism, colonialism, hegemony and foreign domination and in favor of more humane and more equitable international relations in the interest of peace and progress. We greatly appreciate our friendship and co-operation with Guinea which are established on a stable and lasting foundation laid by yourself and President Tito. [end recording]

MALI

JOINT COMMISSION WITH LIBYA HOLDS FIRST SESSION

AB092137 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Text] In opening the first session of the Libya-Mali joint commission, Mr Alioune Blondin Beye expressed the following hope: I hope most sincerely that the deliberations which we are beginning this morning will be carried out successfully. The Malian foreign minister, who stressed the importance of this first meeting, pointed out to the Libyan delegation the fundamental reasons for our country's readiness to maintain ties of exemplary co-operation. Mr Alioune Blondin Beye said such cooperation must be based on mutual interests and advantages to be derived from the exploitation of our potential resources. After noting that there are grounds for satisfaction and hope, the Malian foreign minister made the following appeal:

[Begin recording] In opening the sessions of this joint commission, I wish to make an appeal to the Libyan delegation. I want to make it clear at the outset that the Malian delegation is completely ready to concretely--I insist on this--examine all the recommendations in order to make positive and realistic decisions and to make progress in our relations.

Just 10 days ago, a special envoy sent by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Bamako with a message to the Malian head of state. Before he left, he told newsmen that the enemies of Africa are not going to disarm and are not going to refrain from sowing discord between African countries and between brotherly peoples who share a common bond, a common faith and common ideals. These countries and peoples must make all possible efforts to promote their cooperation. All this should prompt them to work together, but everything is being done to hamper their cooperation.

He added: It is said that the dogs may bark but the caravan moves on; to this I add that [words indistinct] the caravan must not remain at a standstill but must move on--or the barking of dogs will have some significance. I can see that the caravan is moving on. For just 10 days after the visit of the Libyan special envoy, Libyan representatives of the various sectors in which we cooperate are in Bamako to meet their Malian counterpart.

In this connection, I want to reiterate the readiness of our people, their party, their government and their leader as well as the total readiness of our experts to ensure that the discussions are serious and concrete and that only what is realistic and feasible is adopted. This will make it possible for us to avoid raising vain hopes, which could prove very dangerous. Our people have for too long time lived in hopes and we assume a heavy responsibility before history because we have real assets available which Libya and Mali can use to set an example of profitable cooperation, an example of cooperation of equals to which we are very much attached and for which each of us has worked hard, especially within the framework of the nonaligned movement. Mr Minister and dear brothers, I want to stress again the total cooperation of the Malian delegation and our real hopes at the opening of the first session of the Libya-Mali joint commission. I also wish to say in conclusion that, if we want to prove that our enemies' efforts will fail, there is nothing to stop us. We must prove this in the sphere of cooperation. In this respect, Mr Minister and dear brother, I recall that Libya has shown in the past that it understands some of Mali's concerns in the area of cooperation. [end recording]

In his reply, the leader of the Libyan delegation, Mr Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, minister of information, said that he totally agrees with the Malian minister about laying the foundation for concrete cooperation and expressed the desire to make our future relations stronger and more profitable in spite of the maneuvers of our common enemies. Then he expressed hope for a successful outcome of the deliberations:

[Begin recording] We are an African country, which gives us a lot of commitments. The Libyan people are quite conscious of their commitments. We have come to the Republic of Mali to meet our counterparts in order to strengthen the relations between our two countries at all levels, including the cultural, technical and economic sectors. This is the result of the faith which the leaders of both countries have in our cooperation. We fully agree with the Mali minister of foreign affairs that this is the first time the Libya-Mali joint commission has ever met since its founding in 1973. We also believe that our presence among you today shows our commitment to making our cooperation concrete through the implementation of the decisions that will be made. Mali and Libya have, however, held several sessions since 1973 on various aspects of the cooperation between the two countries, especially on the creation of a joint Mali-Libya bank. Two rounds of talks were held on cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry and information, with the establishment of a television network in Mali as a donation of the Libyan people to the Malian people.

Already the Libyan people have contributed to several development projects in Mali as much as Libya could afford.

Many other projects have already been outlined during meetings of officials of both countries and the current meeting of the joint commission will not only be devoted to signing new agreements but also to implementing all agreements. In this connection, I wish to make certain comments on the deliberations which our two delegations will begin.

First, we do not expect the joint commission to bring up again the resolutions adopted during previous meetings. For example, with regard to the television project in Mali I can affirm that the total money for the project has already been transferred to our embassy. The projected television station will have a capacity of 10 kilowatts. We have brought engineers who will supervise the construction. [end recording]

The Mali-Libya joint commission will examine three major problems: water control to help Mali overcome its land-locked condition; road and communication networks; and agriculture and animal husbandry.

NIGER

ENVOY IN GHANA ASSESSES RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

AB091702 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 80

[Text] The outgoing Niger ambassador to Ghana, Alhadji Allele Habibou, has been speaking to newsmen in Accra about events that led to the strained relations between his country and Libya. A report by Gershon Afini:

Since 1974, Niger has been ruled by the military headed by Colonel Kountche. According to the Niger ambassador to Ghana, Alhadji Allele Habibou, there was corruption and nepotism during the 15 years of civilian administration before the takeover. Since then, the military has pursued social justice and national development based on self-sufficiency in food production. He said also agriculture and animal husbandry received priority attention but the severe drought in 1974 destroyed almost all the cattle. Alhadji Habibou emphasized that since the military takeover, there has been a policy to eliminate waste, thereby increasing the agricultural production.

On the international scene, Alhadji Habibou said Niger respects the sovereignty and dignity of other states and expects to receive the same from other countries. Alhadji Habibou pointed out that of late, the outside threat has highlighted the deteriorating state of the Niger-Libya relationship. He said he called the news conference to enlighten Ghanaians on the issue. According to the ambassador, in early 1974, before the military takeover, the former regime concluded an agreement with Libya. He said in the view of the military rulers, the agreement belittled the independence and sovereignty of Niger. The agreement was absolutely not in the interest of Niger, he added. He said that the military rulers, on assumption of office, refused to respect the agreement because the resources of Niger were being wasted. He noted that President Al-Qadhdhafi of Libya has been seeking to create confusion in Niger. In March 1975, there was a military adventure in Niger, he stated. Alhadji Habibou said the Libyan Government has been giving support to conspirators in Niger; and in 1976, some of them attempted a coup. He said they constitute themselves in Libya by the name of the Niger Brigade of the Sahelian Army but he was certain that they cannot destabilize Niger. Alhadji Habibou said many pilgrims from Niger were sponsored by Libya to spread false rumor that [word indistinct]. There was no truth in this allegation, he emphasized. He noted that the willingness of the Libyan Government to cause trouble in Niger has been revealed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi himself in a declaration.

Ambassador Habibou said Libya's involvement in Chad constitutes a danger to Niger and the other countries in the subregion. Col al-Qadhdhafi, according to the ambassador, has not finished with his hegemonic intentions. As a result, Colonel Kountche has paid visits to other African countries to discuss their fate. We made it clear that Niger would not compromise its sovereignty because it has the policy of non interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

NIGERIA

MINISTER, FRENCH ENVOY DISCUSS NUCLEAR POWERPLANT

AB082205 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 8 Dec 80

[Text] In Lagos today, ways of developing the proposed nuclear powerplant in the country were discussed at a meeting between the minister of mines and power, (Alhaji Mahammed Ibrahim Hassan), and the French ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Yves Plattard. Mr Plattard expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with the federal government in the development of the proposed plant. Other areas covered by the talks included the training of technicians of the National Electric Power Authority in France. The minister called on French nationals to invest in Nigeria's economy for a better trade relations between the two countries.

MINISTER CONDEMNS APARTHEID AS 'THREAT TO PEACE'

AB101435 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Text] Nigeria has said that the violation of human rights inherent in the practice of apartheid by racist South Africa is a threat to peace and international security. The minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, made the statement today in a nationwide broadcast to mark the 32d anniversary of the human rights day. He said that human rights, like liberty, is one and indivisible and their denial or suppression anywhere diminish the enjoyment of these rights. Professor Audu further stated that this was why Nigeria was particularly incensed against South Africa whose policy of apartheid and racism both in South Africa and in Namibia represented the most pernicious and abhorrent violation of human rights. The day is being marked in the country with lectures, symposia as well as panel and roundtable discussions.

PLANNING MINISTER MEETS WITH EEC OFFICIAL

AB101525 Paris AFP in French 0846 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Lagos, 10 December (AFP)--The Nigerian Government reaffirmed over the week-end its firm desire to play a more political than economic role in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries organization attached to the EEC by the second Lome convention signed by Lagos but not ratifeid. This stand was made clear by the Nigerian minister of national planning, Mrs Adenike Oyagbola, on receiving Claude Cheysson, EEC commissioner for development, who was on a visit to Lagos. Mr Cheysson's brief stay in Lagos afforded him the opportunity to contact the civilian government in power since 1 October 1979 and to present the new EEC delegate to Nigeria, Bent Pontoppidan, to the authorities. He also held talks with Nigeria and the EEC. It is reported from official sources that the president of the senate asserted during the talks that Nigeria benefited very little from its cooperation with the EEC.

SENEGAL

LIBYAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE FROM AL-QADHDHAFI

AB061158 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Text] Dakar, 6 Dec (AFP)--A Libyan envoy, on a tour to reassure West African leaders who fear Libyan subversion, has given Senegalese President Leopold Senghor a message from Col Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi. The envoy, Ahmad Boudeiri, had visited Mali, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau before coming here.

The content of the message was not disclosed, but observers said it evidently had to do with Libya's declared intention to normalize relations with Sub-Saharan African states, many of which have accused Libya recently of interfering in their internal [words indistinct] supporting opposition groups.

Senegal broke diplomatic relations with Libya in June, and neighboring Gambia in October. [passage indistinct] Niger has begun a national campaign--complete with officially sanctioned anti-Libyan demonstrations--against Colonel Qadhdhafi's subversive designs.

Mr Senghor has taken a leading role in criticizing what he calls Libya's desire to establish control over the black-ruled states of Africa's Sahel belt, from Chad to Senegal.

UPPER VOLTA

ZERBO ADDRESS ON COUNTRY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

AB110004 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 10 Dec 80

[Speech by Col Saye Zerbo, president of Upper Volta's Military Committee of Redress for National Progress, on the 20th anniversary of the country's independence, in Ouagadougou on 10 December--recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens, we have been independent for 20 years, from 11 December 1960 to 11 December 1980. Instead of [words indistinct] and imposing celebrations, I propose that we rejoice in recollection, for our country has just lived through social disturbances resulting in economic, social and political crisis. All this was caused by the laxity of a worn-out power. The moment has come for us to establish the true democracy (?based) on the deep aspiration for social justice and on the merit, competence [words indistinct] with a view to achieving social well-being. We are aware that the task will be long and hard because of the various obstacles which our country must first recognize in order to overcome them. [words indistinct]

As a matter of fact, the colony of Upper Volta, which was created in 1919, was suppressed in 1932 before it was reconstituted in (?1947). The real notion of a national entity is only 30 years old, and the people have never actually been involved in the construction of their country, which is a major handicap of which we are aware. But we will achieve total success. In addition, because we have a land-locked country, Upper Volta suffers unfavorable geographic conditions, which is pitiless toward the Sahel countries, has the tendency to maintain these countries in poverty, ignorance, diseases and dependence. In the face of all these obstacles, we believe that our country is fortunate to have considerable assets. We can note first that well before we became a colony, our social and political traditions regulated Upper Voltan societies. This is real democracy. Upper Volta's democracy is neither an imported product nor a gift from previous generations [passage indistinct].

Although geographic features have been unfavorable to us, the Upper Voltan man has always been characterized by his courage and his tenacity toward adverse circumstances. His broadness of mind, his zeal at work and his sense of enterprise have always been some of his outstanding features. We are deeply convinced that our country is very much enviable. [passage indistinct] We are resolutely committed to facing every problem. Our major objective is general reconciliation in order to (?pursue) common ideals and work for justice and social progress. All the causes of division and [word indistinct] which were created and have been maintained since colonial rule will be fought against so that we can establish national solidarity.

In response to one of our major concerns, an investigation commission has been set up to inquire into public debts under the third republic. It will very soon begin investigations.

We can reassure the people of Upper Volta that [words indistinct] is justice and truth and they will be amply informed. So, we call for the contribution of all patriots, without passion or a biased attitude. For many more problems which do not depend on the international situation will have to be solved. This requires of us all a great capacity of relection, imagination and limitless determination. Our message is especially meant for the youth, [words indistinct] and redress. We will create popular organizations meant to pass information from the leaders to the masses. All social and professional organizations and partners wishing to contribute will have their place within this conveyor belt. On the other hand, we warn all those who will in one way or another try to exploit the November 25 movement to their sole benefit by making use of ideologies which have always divided us.

On internal policy, we are ready [words indistinct] the obvious lack of respect toward authorities and some symbols of our country's sovereignty. Indeed, taking a meditative attitude in front of a flag which is being raised or the national anthem needs little

effort. However, this gesture is the beginning of respect for our country and its symbol. This is also a clear demonstration of the determination to devote--whenever necessary--part of our time, our freedom or our lives to the common cause.

Order and security of persons and property will only be guaranteed if we really share the feeling that we have a common fate. The desire to take a constant part [words indistinct] is indispensable for national development. We will begin now to address ourselves to the much needed reorganization of Upper Volta's administration. For [words indistinct] of the public service, we intend to offer Upper Voltans the ideal framework in order to gain the adherence of workers to national construction. Our action will be guided by our concern for discipline, steadiness and (?conformity) and the battle against all forms of [word indistinct] and embezzlement will be carried out without fail.

We will leave no stone unturned so that [words indistinct] only to survive. We want them to live and prosper totally. In this regard, we will endeavor to create conditions for the actual promotion of jobs. We will also try to set up a health policy based on the development of relief centers and to improve the means of investigations which are almost non-existent in our country now. This health policy will only be complete when the people have been given minimum health training and after a true policy on national pharmacy.

Concerning the [word indistinct] University of Upper Volta, [words indistinct] to deplore the really catastrophic situation and according to the [word indistinct] point of view, a great academic program will therefore be launched at the same time with the researches to find means of creating [word indistinct] conditions for the introduction of suitable literacy methods which use television sets distributed progressively all over the country (?for the development of the national media corporation). [passage indistinct] It is true that our higher education is tense, but be assured that whatever the difficulties, we are once again offering to find adequate solutions to them. Our action will be guided by the structures of affirmations of the [words indistinct]. We want a really satisfactory social [word indistinct] problems, and also enable us to have a comfortable policy. It must finally lead to the happiness of the Voltan family whereby the (?woman) will effectively express all her joy.

Our economic policy is composed of two essential aspects: First, a rural development policy, whose main objective is self-sufficiency in food production. It also seeks to develop while insuring that this development is in harmony with our resources. In the field of agriculture, [words indistinct]. We are asking the rural population to help create cooperatives. It goes without saying that an institution for rural and agricultural development will be founded [words indistinct]. Likewise, the freeing of landlocked regions between them [as heard] will be stressed in order to facilitate the work in all fields.

We need to adopt an economic policy which aids industrial and mineral developments. The [words indistinct] policy of this country also by its mineral wealth. The protection of our mineral wealth will therefore be intensified. [Words indistinct].

In the field of agriculture and especially in the industrial field, a call will be made [words indistinct] to human investment. For a planned economy is (?conserved) [words indistinct] of the external aid in the first place, we are insisting that a plan be controlled in the case where [words indistinct].

In this connection, we respect all the agreements undertaken by Upper Volta, we shall support all the national liberation movements, [words indistinct] to guarantee human rights, our independence and nonalignment. To our brothers [words indistinct] to renew the sentiments of fraternity [words indistinct] we are assuming the responsibility of our essential national defense, that is to say, [words indistinct] in cohesion and discipline. [passage indistinct] That is why (?we have decided) to take hold of its destiny through responsibility to look after it through patriotism and by a civil spirit so that Upper Volta could live.